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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 14, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMIE RASKIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

VOTE TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, about 6 months ago, this country went through a historic election that shattered records that go back almost 100 years. It was the largest voter turnout for a midterm election since 1914. It elected a new majority in the House of Representatives by over 10 million votes.

If you drill down below those top lines, what you will see is that the biggest driving issue for American voters, who turned up in record numbers last November, was, in fact, the issue of healthcare.

If you drill down even further, what you will find is that the cost of prescription drugs was the biggest concern that people had about the security and stability of their healthcare. And why not?

Recent polling by Kaiser showed that 79 percent of Americans feel that prescription drug prices are unreasonable. Eighty percent believe that pharmaceutical company profits are to blame. One-third of Americans said they haven't taken their medications as prescribed because they have trouble affording it.

Again, the stories, in terms of the disparity of pricing in the U.S. versus other parts of the civilized, developed world, are just rampant. Obviously, we pay the highest prices here in this country, and the next highest country, Switzerland, pays 25 percent less than U.S. patients do for comparable medications.

This week, the new majority in the House of Representatives is going to be taking up H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act, which we will be voting on either Thursday or Friday. This bill, which listened to patients all across the country and stakeholders who have been trying to endure these ridiculous costs, will do a number of things.

Number one, it will end pay-for-delay, which will prohibit brand-drug manufacturers from paying off generic companies that produce a competing generic drug. In other words, they are maintaining their exclusivity by paying off generic manufacturers, which are designed to create a stronger marketplace and lower prices for American patients.

It also ends the practice of parking by generic drug companies. Again, once you apply to the FDA for a generic drug, you can get 180 days where you exclude anyone else, any other generic manufacturer, from competing with a similar medication.

The FDA has estimated that these practices cost American patients \$3.5 billion in higher drug costs every year.

We will be voting this week, finally, to stand up to special interests, to listen to what experts and people who are close to this market are telling us about ways of trying to widen the marketplace to create more competition, and to, ultimately, lower the drug costs for American patients that are killing State Medicaid budgets and are also killing employer-based health plans. If you listen to what they are saying, that is where the cost driving is the most acute.

This past week, in the State of Connecticut, Attorney General William Tong announced a new lawsuit against generic manufacturers, which was profiled on "60 Minutes" last Sunday night.

Mr. Tong demonstrated how they have smoking-gun evidence of price-fixing amongst different drug companies. Forty-four States are joining Connecticut in that effort.

It is time, whether it is the legislative branch of Congress or whether it is a different branch, in the court systems, that we start holding drug companies accountable.

The vote that is going to take place this week keeps faith with that historic turnout last fall to make sure that we are going to get real action to address the issue of healthcare.

RELIEF FOR BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, we are also voting this week on H.R. 299—it will be this evening—the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which will finally eliminate a 17-year barrier

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

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



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for people who served in the sea services during the Vietnam conflict and who are being denied access to VA benefits for the scourge of Agent Orange illnesses.

Again, this is a process that has taken forever. We passed this measure in the last Congress by unanimous vote. It was blocked from consideration by two Senators last December.

Congratulations to MARK TAKANO, our new House Committee on Veterans' Affairs chairman, for bringing up this bill immediately in the new House of Representatives, to make sure that we get this long-overdue justice for people who served in the Vietnam conflict taken care of.

Veterans service organizations that have been relentless in their advocacy for blue water Vietnam veterans, such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, MOAA, and Military Order of the Purple Heart, are supporting this legislation.

It is going to be important for us to get this bill passed out of this Chamber and force the Senate to do the right thing and provide justice for those who served in that conflict and who are still suffering from cancers, from heart disease, and from skin ailments because of exposure to a chemical that they had absolutely no idea was unsafe.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Cliff Stearns, vice president of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of history, we thank You for this day, when former Members return to Congress to continue, in a less official manner, their service to our Nation and to this noble institution.

May their presence here bring a moment of pause where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died since last year's meeting—24 in all. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to Congress.

Finally, bless those here gathered, that they might bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another.

Together, we call upon Your holy name, now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Cliff Stearns 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.

Mr. STEARNS. The Chair now recognizes the president of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, the Honorable Martin Frost of Texas, to address the Members.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Cliff. It is always a distinct privilege to be back in this revered Chamber and to see so many of my good friends and former colleagues here.

On behalf of FMC, I appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this wonderful place and to present to Congress FMC's 49th annual report.

I will be joined by some of our colleagues in reporting on FMC's activities and vision for the future.

I also am submitting, for the RECORD, a more detailed review of FMC's 2018 activities.

First, I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Members answered "present":

Mr. Blanchard of Michigan
 Mr. Coyne of Pennsylvania
 Mr. Carr of Michigan
 Mr. DiGuardi of New York
 Mr. Frost of Texas
 Mr. Gingrey of Georgia
 Mr. Goodlatte of Virginia
 Mr. Green of Texas
 Mr. Hertel of Michigan
 Mr. Jones of Oklahoma
 Ms. Kennelly of Connecticut
 Mr. Kolbe of Arizona
 Mr. Konnyu of California
 Mr. Kopetski of Oregon
 Mr. Lancaster of North Carolina
 Ms. Lincoln of Arkansas
 Mr. Matheson of Utah
 Mr. McMillen of Maryland
 Mr. Mica of Florida
 Ms. Morella of Maryland
 Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania
 Mr. Payne of Virginia
 Mr. Rahall of West Virginia
 Mr. Slattery of Kansas
 Mr. Stearns of Florida
 Mr. Tanner of Tennessee
 Mr. Weldon of Florida

Mr. STEARNS. The Chair announces that 27 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

Mr. FROST. Thank you all for joining us today. As I prepared for today's report, it brought back many, many

happy memories of my 26 years serving in this august body.

For all of us, service in this remarkable building was the pinnacle of our professional lives, and I know that for each and every one of us there are memories that will forever remind us of the great privilege we enjoyed as a representative of our constituents.

For me, these memories include great friendships with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, working with terrific and talented young people as a part of my staff, and pushing forward pieces of legislation that I know have made a huge, positive difference.

By serving in Congress, we were given the opportunity to serve our country and its citizens. I am very proud that through FMC we can continue, in a small measure, the public service that brought us to Congress in the first place.

My colleagues and I will describe later in this report the many projects through which FMC Members continue to give back.

As you know, every year during our annual meeting we seek to recognize a colleague for her or his exemplary public service before, during and after Congress. This tradition was started in 1974, when we recognized President Gerry Ford with our first Distinguished Service Award and has continued annually since. Other recipients include Tip O'Neill, Bob Michel, Jack Kemp, Tom Foley, and many others.

The award rotates between the parties, and this year a Republican former Member is slated to be recognized.

When our executive committee started considering whom to honor, immediately Connie Morella of Maryland emerged as the clear favorite, and, by unanimous consent, we agreed that she should be our 2019 Distinguished Service honoree.

I now invite Connie to join me here at the dais.

Connie, I have a few remarks, and then you will have the opportunity to say something also.

Connie Morella, former Member of the House of Representatives and former ambassador, exemplifies like few others a commitment to serving her community and her Nation.

Her entire career, since earning her B.A. from Boston University, was focused on public service. Initially, that service was in education as a secondary school teacher in Montgomery County. Though impossible to confirm, I would guess that Montgomery County is the place in America with the highest number of residents able to quote Shakespeare, thanks to her.

She became active in politics based on an issue that defined her political career: women's rights.

Little did she know, when she became involved with the League of Women Voters, that she herself would become a trailblazer, an inspiration, and a mentor to countless women leaders spanning generations.

After serving in the Maryland House of Delegates for 8 years, she ran for

Congress and commenced a 16-year career in the House of Representatives. She quickly became known as a thoughtful, energetic, and pragmatic legislator who was able to forge bipartisan consensus and bring Members together on even the most difficult issues.

After leaving Congress in 2003, President Bush appointed her our Ambassador to the OECD, where she served until 2007.

Upon returning to the United States, Connie became active in a number of issues and organizations, and luckily FMC was one of them.

The years she served as FMC's president, 2012 through 2014, were some of our most productive, and she lay the foundation for all the success FMC has enjoyed since.

On behalf of the membership, board of directors, and staff of FMC, it is with great personal pleasure that I present our 2019 Distinguished Service Award to an outstanding American and an exemplary public servant: Connie Morella of Maryland.

Some of you who attended our dinner may remember that someone on the stage dropped the award, and I am going to be careful not to drop this one.

Connie, in addition to our award, we also have collected for you a great many letters of congratulations from your colleagues, and we have a book of those letters.

Anyone who has not contributed their letter can submit it to the office, and we will make sure that Connie gets that.

We now would be thrilled for you to share some remarks. But let's put this down so neither one of us drops it.

Ms. MORELLA. This is beautiful. What a tome. This is great. Thank you.

I want to thank you very much, President Frost. You reminded me of something Mae West had said: Too much of a good thing can be downright enjoyable.

I enjoyed it, but you could have gone on even further, although you did exceed the time limit.

Thank you very much for the laudatory and generous remarks. I want to thank you, also, for your leadership in the organization. You are a guy who has your eye on the objective, on the prize, and you work unrelentingly until you succeed. And you do succeed. You never retreat.

My special thanks and appreciation to the Association of Former Members of Congress, to the board, to my colleague Members. What an outstanding group whose action promotes dialogue, bipartisanship, and service.

I am very moved and humbled by this great honor, especially because it comes from my dear friends and colleagues. There is nothing higher than getting an award from your peers, it means a great deal. And it means a great deal to me, because it is from people who have served, many with me, very well in the people's House.

I reflect with awe on the list of pre-mentioned recipients. Some of them were mentioned by President Frost: Bob Michel, Lee Hamilton, Lindy Boggs, Amo Houghton, Ray LaHood, and others. Incredible company, people I have respected and admired. And I accept the honor for all of you. I want to thank you for your continuous passion for the people's House and for your friendship.

I am a lucky, happy camper. I am the daughter of immigrant parents. I am the first in my family to go to college. I can boast of a wonderful family. I have been able to serve, as was mentioned, in my State, my country, here and overseas, and to work with dedicated people, Members of Congress and former Members who are seeking solutions.

I firmly believe that everyone who seeks office is motivated by a passionate desire to serve, a reason that would make things better for all. For me, as was suggested, it was the women's movement that put the movement into me. I was appointed to a commission for women in Montgomery County in the seventies, and at that time a Member of Congress, Martha Griffiths, introduced—not the first time—the Equal Rights Amendment. She got it passed through a draft resolution.

The discharge petition, remember that?

She passed it. It went through the Senate, signed by the President.

But amendment was needed to approve it to become part of the Constitution. So I started lobbying for Maryland to pass the amendment, and, as you know, we needed 38 States. That was when I realized the inequities, the inequities in education, credit, education. I then decided I wanted to seek office in the Maryland Legislature to have a seat at the table.

So, after 8 years serving in the Maryland House of Delegates, I was elected to Congress, the 100th Congress, with many people who still serve, like NANCY PELOSI, JOHN LEWIS, FRED UPTON, and many others who serve and many who are former Members, some who are here today, Dave Skaggs, Amo Houghton, Ernie Konnyu.

I served in the House for 16 years: For 8 years, I was a minority in the minority; for 8 years, I was a minority in the majority. I represented a highly competitive district, as you all know, and as Charlie Cook once said: That Morella, she knows her district. She will go "to the opening of an envelope."

And indeed, I did; it is true. That is still being done, but, unfortunately, more time is being spent raising money. And I must add something else that usurps time, and that is social media.

Well, it was an active time. We broke barriers as in women's health research, violence against women, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we created opportunities in technology, in STEM. We witnessed the fall of the Berlin

Wall, the Soviet Union, apartheid in South Africa, but also 9/11.

We also witnessed bipartisanship, working together, seeking compromise to get results. We respected differences, whether party label or constituencies, and we got things done.

Indeed, when I would introduce a measure, I would gather together Democrats to sign on as sponsors, and the Democrats would do the same thing with me for sponsorship. And why? Bipartisanship got results. In fact, it is the only way to get desired results, and you establish trust with your constituents.

It also strengthened the bond of friendship. And there were many friendships from Members of Congress while I was there and many friendships with my former Member colleagues.

My hope is that Congress Members will reach out across the aisle to know each other personally. They will learn of their colleagues' aspirations, their family, their issues, and, most often, become friends.

The greatest tool of the diplomat, wherever and in whatever, is to listen, to learn, and to lead. They will learn the greatest tool is that. This is the path to forging compromises for our country and to appreciating and respecting each other.

These ingredients, friends, haven't changed, as you know full well. George Washington, when he was age 15, wrote "Rules for Civility and Decent Behavior." Rule number one:

When in the company of others, act with respect for those who are present.

You can't beat that advice. I am a confirmed political junky. I agree with W.B. Yeats, who wrote:

I was here to wind the clock. I want to hear it strike.

I agree and I care. And again, my thanks to all of you, my heartfelt thanks. I have to quote Shakespeare, don't I?

For these great graces heap'd upon me, I can nothing render but allegiant thanks.

Mr. FROST. And, Connie, I know it may come as a great surprise to you, but the great State of Texas that Gene Green and I represented was one of the first States in the country to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

Ms. MORELLA. Very good. Thank you very much.

Mr. FROST. I am not sure the current legislature would have done the same thing, but that was a different era.

Again, congratulations to you, Connie, and thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do for FMC.

It is now my great honor in my capacity as president of FMC to report on FMC's activities for 2018 and 2019.

We are one of a very small group of nonprofits that have a congressional charter, and as such, we are required to report to Congress every year on our past activities. I will give a broad overview of our past work and have submitted for the RECORD a more detailed written report.

Now, I must note that the very competent staff member who prepared these remarks doesn't realize that some of us from the South speak more slowly than some other people from the rest of the country, so Phil Gingrey, who will speak later, and I will try to speed it up as much as we can.

Our association was founded in 1970 and chartered by Congress 13 years later, in 1983. We are completely bipartisan and see our mission as informing about Congress and bridging the political divide. That mission is translated into programs that bring former Members together with student audiences across the Nation, focusing on civics and public service.

We also further our mission by creating programs and study missions involving current Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis. This work, over the years, has been extended to now include congressional staff, both from the D.C. offices as well as district directors across the Nation. We are successful because Republicans and Democrats, whether former Members or current Members, come together in partnership with a willingness to work together for the common good.

We are proud to have been chartered by Congress, and we are equally proud that absolutely no taxpayer dollar is earmarked or expended to make our programs possible. Everything FMC does is financed via grants and sponsors, our membership dues, and our annual fundraising gala, the Statesman-ship Awards Dinner.

Our colleagues L.F. Payne and Mike Ferguson led our fundraising efforts for the most recent gala dinner at the Mellon Auditorium, and I am extremely pleased to report that, thanks to their leadership and the incredible efforts of a great many former Members, we had our most successful fundraising dinner when we honored Senator BURR and Senator KLOBUCHAR, as well as the House Problem Solvers Caucus and the Lufthansa Group for their corporate philanthropy. My thanks to all our colleagues who work so hard on this outstanding event.

Thanks to this success as well as our year-round fundraising efforts, I can report to Congress and the FMC membership that our finances are sound, our projects are fully funded, and our most recent annual audit by an outside accountant confirmed we are running FMC in a fiscally sound, responsible, and transparent manner. And let me stress again that no taxpayer dollars are earmarked for our work, that everything we do is self-funded.

Let me stress, also, that we are a volunteer organization, and our programs have an impact because our members, on a bipartisan basis, contribute to us their knowledge and time. We are successful because former Representatives and Senators come together, across party lines, for the good of our organization, and they do so on a pro bono basis. They believe in our mission, and they continue to have the public servant's heart.

Former Members of Congress, in 2018, donated to FMC over 7,000 hours of energy, wisdom, mentoring, and expertise without receiving any compensation for it. Their own remuneration is the knowledge that they are giving back, that serving in Congress was a unique privilege and it comes with the mandate to encourage and empower the next generation.

On behalf of FMC, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have contributed their time and expertise to make FMC such a great success.

We are extremely proud of our nearly 50-year history creating lasting and impactful programs that teach about Congress and representative government, at home and abroad. Next year will be FMC's 50th birthday, and it is truly amazing how much we have accomplished.

Let me give you a brief overview of 2018 and also a vision for 2019 and beyond.

Over the past 12 months, our FMC staff has conceived, organized, advertised, and implemented almost 100 events to move our mission forward. This is an astonishing number for a staff of 11 that relies completely on former Member volunteers for all our projects.

These events ranged from meeting with middle school students right here in the House Chamber to talk to them about the many responsibilities a Member of Congress has, to week-long study missions where current Member delegations, split evenly between the parties, traveled to countries, including Germany, Japan, and Korea, to study issues such as trade and security.

Our programming has included hundreds of current Members, former Members, senior congressional staff, and district directors. Most recently, we expanded our group of constituents to also include communications directors of congressional offices. They work with us because they know we are completely bipartisan, 100 percent non-advocacy, and that we seek to tell the positive story of our extraordinary representative democracy. Allow me to share with you some highlights of our work.

You will hear more detail about our Congressional Study Groups in a second, but for 2018, we are proudest of the incredible level of activity and impact of our newest Study Group: the Congressional Study Group on Korea. It shows how timely and right from the headlines our work is.

We launched the Korea program in February of 2018 and have since sent, to Korea, several current Member, former Member, and congressional staff delegations under the study group's umbrella. The Korea program now joins our other longstanding international projects: the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Japan, and the Congressional Study Group on Europe.

In addition to a great many Capitol Hill events, over the past 12 months,

we have sent numerous congressional delegations overseas, some for current Members, others for chiefs of staff, and a number for district directors, and just last month, our very first communications directors delegation—all bipartisan.

The purpose of these trips is to educate our participants on specific issues affecting U.S. international relations—mostly trade and security questions. An important side effect is the opportunity of building across-the-aisle relationships and to create a network of peers that transcends party labels and partisanship. All of these trips, of course, go through the rigorous process of ethics review, and we ensure 100 percent compliance with all regulations governing travel by Members or staff.

These international projects are just one component of our work to create bipartisan relationships and strengthen our representative democracy. Domestically, the main focus of our work is reconnecting citizens with their government, highlighting the responsibilities of citizenship and dispelling many of the myths that are out there when it comes to Congress.

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud of our Congress to Campus program. For over 30 years, we have sent a bipartisan team of former Members to meet with university audiences across the country. These are not simple meet-and-greet events where the Members drop in for a quick speech with some Q&A. Instead, these visits are a 3-day commitment by our former Members team so that the university can make the best possible use of FMC as a resource.

We now average about 30 visits during the academic year, which is incredible, given that, as recently as 15 years ago, we averaged about 5. Also, many of our Congress to Campus visits now include a visit to a local high school or even a middle school, so that we are reaching an even broader audience with our FMC team. Sharon Witiw of our staff, who runs this program, is to thank for this great expansion.

We work hand in glove with each university so that each visit is tailored specifically to the school's needs and curriculum. Our colleagues walk into different classroom settings throughout the day, sometimes engaging in discussions about U.S. foreign policy, at other times focusing on questions such as money in politics.

The outcome of each Congress to Campus visit is twofold: to showcase a partisan, yet respectful debate on the issues of the day; and to encourage in the next generation a respect for public service that may translate into future work on Capitol Hill.

We have reached thousands upon thousands of students, and through our own polling can demonstrate that we are making a positive difference when it comes to attitudes about Congress and about elected officials. You will hear more about this and our other civic education initiatives when I yield

the floor for that report in just a little bit.

Our work to reconnect citizens with their government takes many different forms. For example, we have a long-standing partnership with the National Archives, bringing former Members and other issue experts together with the public for a conversation about issues affecting all of us. Our next National Archives panel will be on June 13 for a conversation about female candidates for office and the extra challenges women face in the political world.

What I have described thus far is just a small part of the work we have done on our membership's behalf. And while programs such as Congress to Campus or the Congressional Study Group on Germany are longstanding undertakings that we have offered to the public for decades, they, along with our existing projects, all were infused with a new energy, vision, and enthusiasm thanks to the extensive strategic planning process that we briefed you on for the past 2 years.

Let me again thank Mark Sobol, who is here today, a highly respected expert in the field of strategic planning and organization management, who donated to us completely free of charge his tremendous expertise to help FMC achieve the next level of professionalism and impact. He helped us craft an extremely thoughtful and visionary strategic plan, which the FMC board approved a little over 2 years ago.

Since then, the effect of this incredibly important exercise can be felt in all aspects of the organization. We—our board of directors and the exceptional FMC staff—have made great strides in implementing this plan, for example, when it comes to branding FMC as a unique authority on Congress, unparalleled in our expertise and experience.

We now have a much more focused media strategy, have unified our current Member programming with our former Member programming under one logo and one recognizable brand, and are much better at pushing out our message of bipartisanship using social media, for example. Paul Kincaid is responsible for our message, and I thank him for his good work.

Over the summer, our staff put together an outstanding board of directors retreat, where we came together to refine and review the strategic plan and brainstorm about best ways to continue to implement.

One idea that stemmed from the board retreat was the notion that FMC's board and staff could benefit from additional voices and creative input, beyond just former Members of Congress. FMC, therefore, created an Advisory Board comprised of valued members of our Study Groups' Business Advisory Council. The inaugural group of Advisory Board members are: Majida Mourad of Tellurian, Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel of Lockheed, Anna Schneider of Volkswagen, and Dr. David

Steel of Samsung. To round out this group, we were pleased that our long-time consultant and friend Mark Sobol of Longwave Partners accepted FMC's invitation as well.

The Advisory Board, committed to bipartisanship and meaningful conversation and dialogue, will provide FMC with a unique perspective on the critical issues of the day and suggestions on how we engage our membership and partners to strengthen and streamline our mission. We thank each of these great friends of FMC for their commitment to our mission.

I am also more than pleased to report to you that a brand-new website showcasing our new logo and look has gone live since the last report to Congress. This has been a major focus of my predecessor, Cliff Stearns of Florida, who kept asking: When is the logo going to be up? When is the website going to be up? And he finally got his answer during his 2 years as FMC's president. I am thrilled that all of his hard work came to fruition with the new website, which reflects much more accurately the vibrant and impactful organization we have become.

Thank you, Cliff, for your leadership on this, and congratulations to our staff member Alia Diamond, who did such a tremendous job creating our new website.

As I look at FMC's future, some very exciting new initiatives stand out. We are using our Congress to Campus model to include a greater outreach into the community. We call this new initiative our Insight into Congress project. We took the idea for a test run just last week in Austin, Texas, with Gene Green, who is here today.

Two former Members, Gene Green and Randy Neugebauer, went to Austin not to meet with a single university, but different aspects of the whole community. This included several events hosted by Samsung with their local workforce and executives, as well as high schools, the chamber of commerce, and others. We think this could be a really interesting expansion of the work we already do under Congress to Campus.

Also, late last year, we implemented, for a second time, a new project as part of our American Democracy and Civics programs. We brought together a bipartisan group of four current Members, two Democrats and two Republicans, hosted in his Boston district by JOE KENNEDY, and put a program together for the four of them to meet with several high schools, universities, and public forums. Again, this is an exciting expansion of the type of work we do, we already do well via Congress to Campus, and I congratulate the staff on building on our obvious strengths.

Last year, we reported to you on the commencement of the Legacy program, which was conceived to interview retiring Members of Congress so that, under the FMC umbrella, we can create an oral history of all those who have served in the House and the Senate.

It is interesting: No one else was doing this on a comprehensive basis, not the Library of Congress, not the Historian's Office. This is something I think will have a lasting impact. And once these oral histories have been transcribed and analyzed, we are donating them to the Library of Congress, where they will be available for review.

I am pleased to report that we have already surpassed our initial goal of 30 completed interviews and we are now moving forward with analyzing the data we have collected, as well as expanding our interview outreach.

We started with the people, some of whom are in this room, who left at the end of the last Congress. I, along with five other Members, last week had the honor of testifying before the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. When completed, we hope to present our findings of the Legacy Project to the committee later this year.

I thank Mark Sobol and Lenny Steinhorn for being the driving force behind this project, ably staffed by FMC's Patricia Ochs.

In addition, we continue to find opportunities for former Members to travel—I know Members like to travel, both current and former—and be ambassadors on behalf of our representative democracy.

Just last week, we dispatched a delegation of former Senators to China. This is the 11th delegation over the past 6 years that we have sent to Beijing and other Chinese cities so that we can play a small role in fostering a better dialogue involving the United States and China. These trips have been made possible thanks to two great partners, the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation and the Chinese Association for International Friendly Contact.

The impact of these former Member delegations is enhanced by Capitol Hill programming, which we have been able to offer in partnership with the Committee of 100, a U.S. nonprofit made up of the foremost Americans of Chinese descent.

Later this year, we also will send another former Member delegation to Korea. This group will be hosted by Jay Kim, a former Member from California and head of the Jay Kim Foundation. Jay's wife, Jennifer Ahn, has been instrumental in putting this trip together.

Our other host is the Korea Peace Sharing Foundation. I wish to pay special tribute to the head of that wonderful organization, Reverend Kang Suk So, a senior pastor of Sae Eden Presbyterian Church in Seoul. Reverend So has made it his mission to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula.

One of the many ways he seeks to accomplish that lofty goal is by bringing veterans of the Korean war back to Korea for remembrance, tribute, and recognition. He has tirelessly invested his energy, focus, and fundraising success in making it possible for countless

Korean war veterans to return to Korea and witness for themselves the new Korea that they made possible via their sacrifice.

Reverend So is now engaging in a cross-cultural dialogue and is making former Members of Congress part of that important undertaking.

Thanks to him and the congregation of the Sae Eden Presbyterian Church, we are able to send former Members of Congress to Korea to better understand its culture and rich history. His leadership is truly inspirational.

As Members can see, the future for FMC is incredibly bright. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for three reasons.

One I already mentioned, which is the outstanding work our board and staff have done to solidify our mission plan, put in achievable goals, and strategize how best to move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are corporations that donate to us, especially via the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. These partners also include outstanding grant-giving entities: the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, the Hewlett Foundation Madison Initiative, the Democracy Fund, the Korea Society and the Korea Foundation, and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, to name just a few. They believe in our capabilities and are giving us the opportunity to grow and create long-lasting programming. We appreciate them very much.

The third and most important reason is my fellow former Members of Congress, who donate to us their time, their expertise, their wisdom, and their leadership. As I said earlier, the 7,000 hours of combined former Member time has been donated to us pro bono by our membership. I thank them for that.

I have to warn former Members, our demand for their time and goodwill is only increasing. As we all know, there are many challenges our Nation faces, and FMC can play a pivotal role in bringing people together. This Nation's strength has always been found in its ability to unite and move the country forward for the greater good.

FMC, like no other organization, can build bridges between Democrats and Republicans, build bridges between those being represented and those doing the representing, and build bridges between one generation of public servants and the next. To do so will require more and more commitment to our work, and I am sure former Members of Congress will rise to the occasion.

In anticipation of former Members' support, I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

I want to interject one thing, and I am not the only one who fits in this category. A number of us have former staff members who now sit in Congress. My former field representative, MARC

VEASEY, is a Congressman from the Dallas-Fort Worth area today. I know other former Members have provided the exact same mentorship to people on their staff and people whom they knew in their community, and I thank them for that.

As Members have heard, this is FMC's 49th report to Congress, which means that, next year, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. This is a tremendous achievement for a small nonprofit that was originally conceived as purely an alumni group with the occasional social gathering.

We have come a long way, and it is thanks to the volunteerism of the membership that we can look forward to celebrating 50 outstanding years.

Before getting to the business of electing our new board members, I do want to recognize two of my colleagues to give just a little bit more detail about our domestic and international governing.

I first invite Jim Coyne from Pennsylvania to focus on FMC's civic education program. He will be followed by FMC board member Phil Gingrey from Georgia to speak about our international programs.

Mr. COYNE. I thank Martin for the opportunity to make some remarks on a topic that is incredibly important and near and dear to my heart: our Nation's woeful attitude toward civic education.

In 10 States in the U.S., there is no requirement to take a civic education class in high school—none. Only nine States require a full year of civic education, while 31 States require only one semester.

It is no surprise that, in 2017, it was found that 35 percent of millennials stated that they were losing faith in American democracy. Just let that sink in for a moment. Over one-third of America's next generation states that they are losing faith in our Nation's representative democracy.

How can they support and appreciate it if they don't understand the background and importance of our system? Civic learning can be the best vehicle to have young people be active citizens in adulthood.

FMC's well-established civic programs, like Congress to Campus and Congress to Community, continue to grow to be a part of the civic learning solution. Thanks to the great work of Sharon White and Haley LaTourette of the FMC staff, we are doing even more.

In the 2018-2019 academic school year, FMC's Congress to Campus program has visited 25 schools, garnering the participation of 36 former Members, six of whom participated in two or more visits and five of whom are newly retired, together reaching thousands of students.

This academic year, we visited 11 new schools, most of which have heard about the program's success from other schools. The word is clearly spreading.

The hosting administrators have been stretching former Member en-

agement beyond the typical political studies departments to include classes in business ethics, international relations, media and writing, feminism, public policy, and many other more diverse curricula. Many Congress to Campus visits include interviews with students and local media, as well as open public forums to reach the broader community.

By analyzing surveys that the participating students take before and after their school's Congress to Campus visit, we have learned that not only have 82 percent of the students' attitudes toward Congress improved—maybe that is not too hard—because of our Congress to Campus program, but the program has left 75 percent of students feeling more positive about Democrats' and Republicans' ability to work civilly and productively together.

Almost every school administrator expresses interest in hosting another Congress to Campus program after they have experienced one themselves.

We continue to extend former Members' experience and wisdom to high school and middle school students, particularly in the summer with the Envision program. This June and July, we have 12 programs scheduled.

Though these speaking engagements are early in the morning, we hope and deeply appreciate if each former Member here in the D.C. area will consider donating a couple of hours of their valuable time to speak with these students at this very spot on the House floor.

We have been engaged in this program for 3 years, and each year, the students report that the highlight of the week-long experience in D.C. is hearing from the former Members about their experiences in Congress.

Former Members are having a huge impact and are making a positive difference, and I guarantee that they will find their meetings with these students to be the highlight of their week. Sharon and Haley will reach out to former Members to see if we can sign you up for a visit with these middle school kids here in the House Chamber.

In addition to these solidly established in-person programs, Congress to Campus is also expanding virtually. This year, we have had three different bipartisan pairs of former Members speak to students as close as Boston and as far away as Germany via Skype and Zoom.

We are striving to expand our internet reach to encompass more students of all locations and backgrounds by virtually connecting them with former Members to answer their questions and concerns about Congress, public service, running for office, and much more.

This year's FMC's newly formed Congressional Study Group on American Democracy and Civics ran two effective study tours, one to each of the co-chairs' districts.

The first trip was to Representative RODNEY DAVIS' district in southern Illinois with Representative JIMMY PANNETTA from California. During the 48-

hour trip, the Members spoke to hundreds of high school students, community college students, and civics teachers within the region about the importance of building bipartisan relationships and reaching across the aisle. They were able to express to these audiences that having productive and respectful relationships that cross the political aisle is the only way to accomplish their important work in Congress.

The second trip expanded in size to include four Members of Congress. Representative JOE KENNEDY hosted Representative DAVIS, Representative MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER in his Boston district. The delegation spoke to hundreds of high school students and had a public discussion at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Study of the U.S. Senate.

The overarching theme that emerged was that good laws come out of understanding that each Member represents a different group of people, and the reasons why certain issues are important to that group may differ immensely from another district's issues.

The presenting Members could not have come from more diverse districts, from a liberal urban setting in New England to a conservative rural district in Oklahoma, from a red, blue, and purple State to a wheat-belt State that has both Republican and Democrat constituents.

The delegation demonstrated what we all know to be true of Congress: Members can be respectful, civil, and pragmatic while still advocating for their districts, constituents, and beliefs.

The group reflected on what seems lost in today's society, that listening and understanding a colleague's position helps everyone find common ground.

The students responded positively, treating the delegation like rock stars, with raucous applause and waiting after the presentation to ask more questions or just grab a selfie.

The next study tour is planned for early September to Representative MARKWAYNE MULLIN's district in Oklahoma.

Our former Members are also helping to strengthen civic education at the State level. FMC has been working with the CivXNow Coalition to connect former Members of Congress with civic learning communities and individual States to improve and strengthen State-level policies and practices in civic education.

We began with Pennsylvania. Former Member Jim Gerlach leads a bipartisan group of eight Pennsylvania former Members who are working with the State Department of Education and local civic education organizations to update their civic curricula and requirements.

We are now forming groups for former Members to work together on promoting and improving civic edu-

cation in the great States of Texas and California. FMC hopes to add more States this coming year. We hope everyone will consider helping.

This is our eighth year of continuing a strong partnership with the National Archives. Just before last November's midterm elections, we hosted a panel discussion on "Voter Discontent During Wave Elections" with a bipartisan panel of former Members who either rode in or were swept out with a wave during one of their elections. The discussion examined the impact of previous elections and Presidential elections on the competitiveness of a congressional seat.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 13, at 7 p.m., when we will hold our next panel discussion to examine the unique challenges that women face when running for office.

This past year, we have continued our outreach beyond the beltway to the congressional family through engaging dozens of district directors. Last summer, FMC connected with the district directors that came to D.C. for their fly-in retreat with a reception hosted by one of our Diplomatic Advisory Council members. Over 100 Republican district directors learned more about FMC at a reception at the home of the Embassy of Germany's DCM, and several dozen Democratic district directors were hosted by the Ambassador of Finland.

We continue to see the great value of working with district directors. FMC has also brought dozens of district directors on study tours, both domestically and internationally. Under multiple of FMC's international Congressional Study Groups, delegations of district directors visited Germany, Japan, and Korea. Through a grant from the Democracy Fund, we were able to bring delegations of district directors to Ireland to examine the challenges and impact that Brexit may have and what lessons Brexit may hold regarding NAFTA, as well as to Puerto Rico to examine the devastation that Hurricanes Maria and Irma have caused the island.

Next week, we will bring a bipartisan delegation of district directors from all over the country to Nashville to better understand America's current state of healthcare, with a particular focus on the opioid crisis.

Later this summer, we will bring another delegation of district directors to Canada to take a closer look at our relationship with our northern neighbor, concentrating on new trade deals and border issues.

In the fall, we are bringing together all the district directors we have met for a 2-day symposium to examine more constituent issues and encourage solutions that help their districts regardless of parties.

None of this important work would be possible without the support of outstanding partners. We would like to thank the Hewlett Foundation, the Democracy Fund, the Stennis Center for

Public Service Leadership, the VF Foundation, and the National Archives for trusting in our work and empowering us to truly make an impact across the country. I thank you all.

Martin has asked me to yield some time at this point to Phil Gingrey from Georgia to share with the membership an update on our international work. I therefore thank Members for their attention and now yield the floor to Mr. Gingrey.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank Jim for yielding some of his time. Primarily, I will report on the Congressional Study Groups program.

As a Member, I had the honor of co-chairing the Congressional Study Group on Germany for, I think, 4 years. It was absolutely one of the highlights of my 12 years in Congress.

Today, as we stand in this well, hundreds of Members of Congress will shuttle back and forth from committee hearings to constituent meetings to the call time that we all loved so much. For a small part of their day, they will take in as much information as they can on the issues they and their committees are focused on.

All of us remember the days when we served here, and information was served 24 hours a day from a seemingly endless firehose. For most of us, and for most of them, that information did not concern American foreign policy or trade or our allies overseas.

Our colleague John Dingell once said of his committee's jurisdiction, "If it moves, it's commerce. If it doesn't, it's energy." Looking at the United States today, we may still be made up of energy and commerce, but the impact, and our knowledge of that impact, cannot be limited to our own Nation. We have become the keystone of a global economy.

In 1983, our colleagues saw that globalization was coming, and they realized that a fire hydrant of information was not going to include what was happening with our allies, our adversaries, our trading partners, and developing nations, except for those few Members who were on the Armed Services Committee or the Foreign Affairs Committee. Thus, the Congressional Study Groups were born.

In the past year, we have continued that mission through the continued program impact of the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Europe, and, most recently, Korea.

Small, informal programs on Capitol Hill and travel opportunities bring the realities of these countries and our relationships with them as Americans into sharper focus. We also introduced Members and staff to their peers overseas, and we create for current Members and current congressional staff the opportunity to network with each other.

FMC understands that bipartisan cooperation doesn't just magically appear, and it doesn't always begin at work or in the committee rooms. Often, it starts informally at dinner, at

the ballpark, or on trips such as the ones conducted by the Congressional Study Groups.

Creating that bipartisanship is part of our calling at FMC, and I am proud to say that it is a goal we consistently seek when planning events for the Congressional Study Groups.

I would like to share a little bit about what each of our Congressional Study Groups has done this year and what we will do in the coming months, both to advance this mutual understanding and to advance toward FMC's strategic goals. Let me thank FMC's outstanding programming staff, led by Lorraine Harbison, for their tremendous work.

The first Congressional Study Group founded was the Study Group on Germany. This year marks the 35th anniversary of our Congress-Bundestag Seminar, which alternates between bringing the German Bundestag members to the United States and then taking U.S. Members of Congress to Germany.

In election years, Bundestag members traditionally travel to the U.S., and this year was no different. An engaging, diverse group of German legislators from several different political parties joined FMC in Washington, D.C., for a day before trekking off to Nashville and Chattanooga, where they toured Volkswagen's plant, which has become a huge part of that community. They met with cultural and educational leaders and got an opportunity to see the Tennessee Senate and Governor's race in full swing just as early voting began in the Volunteer State.

The Study Group on Germany also welcomed a new co-chair this year in the House as Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS from Indiana joined Congressman TED DEUTCH from Florida as co-chairs. Both co-chairs welcomed Ambassador Emily Haber at a dinner for Members of Congress following her appointment as Ambassador to the United States from Germany.

Our congressional staff engagement continues to grow, with a number of roundtables on the Hill and continued involvement of chiefs of staff and district directors in our study tours to Germany.

This year, the Congressional Study Groups also received funding from the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy to organize a new study tour aimed at bringing nearly a dozen communications directors, chosen on a bipartisan basis, to Germany for substantive exchanges on issues relating to the transatlantic relationship.

As with the district director programming made possible by this grant, engaging communications directors has allowed us to tap into a previously underserved and impressionable group of congressional staff. This year's two study tours saw FMC and the study groups bring 16 individuals on their first-ever visit to Germany. In this group, we see tremendous potential to

create new advocates both for the German-American partnership and for the efforts undertaken by the Congressional Study Group on Germany.

Further communications director and district director study tours will take place in 2020. We look forward to engaging with this new group of congressional staffers next year and to continuing the excellence in programming for which our FMC study tours are known. Patrick Egenhofer of the FMC team does just an outstanding job running the Congressional Study Group on Germany.

The congressional study tour to Japan for Members is always the highlight of the Congressional Study Group on Japan's year. This year was no different, as study group co-chairs BILLY LONG and DIANA DEGETTE accompanied six of their colleagues to Tokyo where they met with Prime Minister Abe and then to the Tohoku region—I hope I pronounced that correctly—which was so badly damaged by the 2011 earthquake and the subsequent tsunami. Members of Congress had the opportunity to view the Fukushima power plant and to see the exclusionary zone around the facility, where some residents have actually returned but which most have abandoned.

A similar agenda was created for chiefs of staff, as well as our first district director trip for the Study Group on Japan, bringing directors from across the Nation on a bipartisan basis. The trip continued the district director outreach that has now spread to three of our congressional study groups.

The similar agenda allowed us to see our meeting partners from the perspectives of three different parts of our congressional family—Members, senior D.C. staff, and district staff—to engage, and for former Members of Congress to create a “deep dive” to really grow a full understanding of the governmental and civil society roles played both in Tokyo and in the recovering area of Tohoku.

Domestically, Japanese Government officials and our Japanese Business Advisory Council were very interested in the 2018 mid-term elections, and, as a result, FMC provided several opportunities for both groups to meet with both current and former Members of Congress and staffers before and after the election, learning more about the critical issues and expectations going into the election and the likely changes that would take place in a Democratic-led House following the election.

The Congressional Study Group also welcomed a new Ambassador from Japan to the United States this year. After several years of outstanding cooperation between the Embassy under Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae, he elected to retire and was succeeded by His Excellency Shinsuke Sugiyama. The Study Group on Japan was able to host a dinner for the new Ambassador at his residence in Washington, allowing Members of Congress to learn more

about the important issues surrounding the U.S.-Japan alliance.

The Study Group on Japan also continued one of the best-received programs we have created recently, with our Chief of Staff Colloquium. This weekend retreat for congressional chiefs of staff allows for a “deep dive” into issues concerning the United States, Japan, and the entire Indo-Pacific region.

More than 20 experts in Asian issues conducted discussion sessions for ten chiefs of staff at the retreat held in Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore's proximity allows chiefs who live in Washington to “get away” from the hustle and bustle of Capitol Hill, while remaining close enough to not feel out of touch. This provides an excellent learning experience for the staffers, as well as a great opportunity for FMC to engage with congressional staff who may be interested in our Study tours.

For years now, we have benefited greatly from the expertise and professionalism of FMC staffer Alexis Ayano Terai for all things Japan related. We will miss her greatly when she starts her full-time studies at Georgetown to earn her master's degree.

The Congressional Study Group on Europe was active this year as well, primarily focusing on events here in Washington, D.C. The European Study Group has been heavily focused, recently, on district director programming, encouraging these critical senior congressional staff to become more engaged in the transatlantic relationship. This year, Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi of Finland was kind enough to welcome dozens of Democratic district directors to the Finnish Embassy for a reception and a discussion on Finland, Scandinavia, and the role Northern Europe plays in both NATO and in our trading relationships. We expect to continue this relationship between FMC, our district directors, and European embassies this year and far into the future.

Europe was also exceptionally interested in the 2018 elections in the United States, and FMC worked with the Swiss Embassy to create an opportunity to hear from former Members, including President Martin Frost and Vice President Charles Boustany, regarding the results of the November elections here in the United States. This discussion session was heavily attended and allowed our friends from Europe to better understand what a divided legislative branch meant for the 116th Congress and what 2020 could potentially mean for the United States and its relationship with Europe.

Finally, our Congressional Study Group on Korea completed its first full year of activities and was a constant source of pride for FMC. After only having a small delegation of Members of Congress travel to Seoul last year, this year's group was larger and was complemented by a district director study tour, which recently returned from the Republic of Korea, in addition to a former Members delegation that traveled in February.

We also hope, later this year, to bring a chief of staff delegation to the peninsula. Members of Congress were able to meet with key government officials, reporters, and business leaders and, traveling to the Demilitarized Zone between the Republic of Korea and North Korea, were able to learn more about American defense standing in the region from our own military leaders. Each of the delegations also met with local college students in Korea, allowing a candid discussion on both domestic and transpacific issues that are important to the next generation of Koreans.

The Study Group on Korea was also active on Capitol Hill. As we welcomed both our new Senate co-chairs, Senator BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii and Senator DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska, Ambassador Cho Yoon-je, the Ambassador from South Korea to the United States, hosted a dinner in their honor, along with several of their House and Senate colleagues, to discuss important U.S.-Korean issues, particularly focused on trade, energy, and defense.

As well, the Study Group on Korea welcomed several governmental and business leaders to Capitol Hill for informal, organic roundtables with Members of Congress and their staff to better create an understanding of this critical alliance and relationship, particularly among Members focused on trade with Korea in their districts who are not able to address these issues through their committee assignments.

Thanks to the efforts of the Congressional Study Group on Korea, the South Korean National Assembly, our counterparts in Seoul, will be mirroring our efforts, as they create the Parliamentary Study Group on America. We wish them luck in that endeavor and look forward to working with our friends in Seoul to further the U.S.-Korean alliance. And we very much appreciate all the hard and good work of FMC staffer Dongwon Kim as he implements Korea-focused programming.

The Congressional Study Groups continue to work on better ways to communicate with our stakeholders, adding conference calls on important issues, featuring our frequent meeting partners, that allow Members of Congress, their staff, the business community, our supporters, and the diplomatic community to participate in Study Group programming without having to leave their office.

All of this great work being done by the Congressional Study Groups could not continue without the support of the members of our Business Advisory Council, BAC, and the institutional funding partners that we have. With that in mind, it is important that we thank Ambassador Jim Zumwalt and Ms. Junko Chano at Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Ms. Paige Cottingham-Streater at the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, Dr. Karen Donfried at the German Marshall Fund, Ms. Minjeong Kim and Mr. Kiho Jang at the Korea

Foundation, and Ambassador Thomas Byrne at the Korea Society.

The members of our BAC who are so committed to the transoceanic relationships fostered by the Congressional Study Groups include Hyundai, Samsung, KITA, POSCO, CJ, SK, Gale International, Michelin, Tellurian, Allianz, BASF, Bayer, B. Braun Medical, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Evonik Corporation, Fresenius Medical Care North America, Fresenius SE, Lufthansa German Airlines, RatnerPrestia, Representative of German Industry and Trade, Volkswagen Group of America, Aflac, ANA, Honda, Itochu, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, JR Central, Hitachi, Lockheed Martin, Marubeni, Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mitsui, Mizuho, MUFJ, NEC, Nissan, Nomura, Panasonic, Sojitz, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Toyota. We are deeply grateful to all of these organizations for their support of our work.

As with the rest of FMC, the future of the Congressional Study Group is strong and vibrant. I look forward to watching the incredible programming and travel opportunities that they provide to continue FMC's goal to truly create an effective, nonpartisan avenue for effective legislative and knowledge exchange between the congressional family and our friends and allies abroad.

I appreciate the opportunity to make these remarks. It is my understanding that we have some membership business to accomplish, and I, therefore, yield to FMC's president, Representative Martin Frost of Texas.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Jim and Phil, for your reports and for your outstanding leadership of these important FMC programs.

I would note for the Record that, since we called the roll, several people have come into the room. I notice Barbara Kennelly, former president of our organization—I don't know if she was here when the roll was called—Blanche Lincoln, a former Member of the House and a former Member of the Senate from Arkansas; John Tanner from Tennessee; and, also, Jim Jones, a former Congressman and a former Ambassador.

I also would like to recognize several representatives of the Congressional Federal Credit Union, and I thank them for their many years of partnership and support.

Normally, at this juncture in our report, I would highlight each FMC staff member, briefly describe their areas of responsibility, and add a personal note since I have worked so closely with each of them over the past several years. I cannot do so this year simply because our team has grown so much. We are now up to 12 FMC staff members, so there is just not enough time anymore to recognize each individually.

However, I do want to highlight two names. First, our CEO, Pete Weichlein.

As you may know, he has been with FMC in various positions since February 1, 1999, which means that, earlier this year, he celebrated his 20th anniversary with us. Pete is brimming full of ideas. He is energetic and he is thoughtful. My job as President is to point out the one or two of his ideas that may not be quite as good as the others. He really does an extraordinary job for us, and I want to thank him.

The other staff member I want to salute is our COO, Sabine Schleidt. She joined FMC over 8 years ago and has been the driving force behind so much of our tremendous growth and success. Now, I know Sabine was here. She must be working on the next piece of our business, the next event.

Sabine is extraordinary, for those of you who haven't worked with her. She oversees all of our international programs, and she also—which I know L.F., as one of our dinner chairs, was grateful, and I, as president, was grateful—raises a lot of money for us. She is really very good, and we are very fortunate to have her.

At this point, let me also recognize a representative of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. As you know, our closest working relationships are with our colleagues in Ottawa and our colleagues in Brussels.

We have enjoyed, over the years, many joint projects, such as election monitoring. The Canadian Association is a wonderful partner and resource to us, and we are thrilled that one of its board members, Eleni Bakopanos from Quebec, is with us here this morning and throughout the day.

Thank you so much for joining us.

By the way, she is from Montreal, and if any of you need to know the best Greek restaurants in Montreal, you should check with her before you go.

As a personal note, several years ago, our organization sponsored a joint mission, a joint visit to the Normandy Battlefield with former Members of the Canadian Parliament. It was an extraordinary trip. Not only did we visit our battlefield sites, but also the Canadians, both from World War I and World War II.

Canada, per capita, lost an extraordinary number of soldiers during those two wars. We will be forever grateful for their partnership then and their partnership now.

I thank you so much for joining us. I hope you enjoy the rest of the program. This is a friendly group. I am sure they will come up and visit with you.

Every year at our annual meeting, we ask the membership to elect new officers and board members. I, therefore, will now read to you the names of the candidates for board members and officers. They are all running unopposed, and I, therefore, ask for a simple "yea" or "nay" as I present to you the list of candidates as a slate.

For the Association's Board of Directors Class of 2019, the candidates are:

Ann Marie Buerkle of New York,
Bob Clement of Tennessee,

Donna Edwards of Maryland, Phil Gingrey of Georgia, Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, L.F. Payne of Virginia, Tim Petri of Wisconsin, and Nick Rahall of West Virginia.

Some of these are repeat board members. They have served previously. We are glad that they will continue to serve.

All in favor of electing these seven former Members to FMC's board of directors, please say "yea."

Not hearing any "nays" they are elected.

Next, we will elect our Executive Committee. Charles Boustany serves as our vice president. He and I were elected last year to a 2-year term, and we, therefore, are not up for reelection.

Cliff Stearns automatically remains on the Executive Committee in his capacity as immediate past president.

The secretary and treasurer are each elected to a 1-year term, with eligibility for another 1-year term. The candidates are:

Ann Marie Buerkle of New York for treasurer, and

L.F. Payne of Virginia for secretary.

All in favor of electing these two former Members to FMC's Executive Committee, please say "yea."

Any opposed?

Hearing no opposition, the slate has been elected by the membership.

I thank you all for volunteering to serve on our board, and I very much look forward to working with you again over the next year.

It is now my sad duty to inform the Congress of those former and current Members who have passed away since our last report.

As you know, FMC has commenced a beautiful tradition, which is to recognize via a separate memorial service in Statuary Hall all those of our colleagues who have passed away in the previous 12 months. It is a truly wonderful and fitting tribute to which we invite the families of these Members, and I hope you will join us in September as we do so again this year.

I would note that we have patterned this after a very similar service conducted by the Canadian Parliament. I had the privilege of representing this organization at the annual meeting of the former Members of the Canadian Parliament and got to see this ceremony firsthand, and thank you for that, too.

It is a truly wonderful and fitting tribute to which we invite the families of these Members, and I hope you will join us in September as we do so again this year.

We also want to pay tribute to these Members by making sure their names are read here in the House Chamber and they are included in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I, therefore, will now read the names, and I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to rise as I read their names. At the end of the list, we will pay our respect to their memory with a moment of silence.

Thank you.

We honor these Members for their service to our country. They are:

Birch Evans Bayh of Indiana

Leonard Boswell of Iowa

Bill Broomfield of Michigan

George H.W. Bush of Texas, a former Member of the House of Representatives

Michael "Mac" Collins of Georgia

Ronald Dellums of California

John Dingell, Jr. of Michigan

Ralph Hall of Texas

James Hansen of Utah

Margaret Heckler of Massachusetts

Ernest "Fritz" Hollings of South Carolina

Walter "Dee" Huddleston of Kentucky

Walter B. Jones, Jr. of North Carolina

Paul Laxalt of Nevada

Marilyn Lloyd of Tennessee

Richard Lugar of Indiana

John McCain of Arizona

Guy Molinari of New York

Jim Moody of Wisconsin

Dick Nichols of Kansas

Ed Pastor of Arizona

Elizabeth Patterson of South Carolina

Ellen Tauscher of California

Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania.

Please observe a moment of silence.

Thank you.

I notice in reading this list that I served with a number of these Members, as did, I think, most of the people in this room. I hope you will join us in September when we officially mark this occasion.

Thank you. That concludes the 49th Report to Congress by the Former Members of Congress. On behalf of FMC, I wish to thank the Speaker and minority leader for giving us the opportunity to return to this very special place and report on FMC's activities.

I also wish to share with you how incredibly honored I am to be serving as the president of this outstanding organization. We do wonderful work, and our membership's commitment is a testament to how dear you all hold this institution.

I would mention, and I think you have all gotten a copy of this, that we have a program for most of this day. I hope that many of you will attend these events.

We have a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building starting at 9:30 and then a program about space policy, 50 years after Apollo 11, also in the Rayburn Building. Then we adjourn to the National Archives, and our colleague, Jim Blanchard, is chairman of the board of the National Archives. We appreciate everything you are doing to help us.

Mr. DIOGUARDI. I am former Congressman Joe DioGuardi. I would like to introduce, in the spirit of bipartisanship and emerging democracies, guests from Southeast Europe. If you don't mind, I would like to welcome them.

From Albania, we have Monika Kryemadhi. She is the first female to

run a political party in Albania. She is joined here by her chairperson for the Foreign Policy Committee of that group, Klajda Gjoshja, and the chief of staff, Eriol Braimllari.

We also have Faton Bislimi, a Harvard graduate. He is from Kosovo.

We have from Presevo, a part of southern Serbia that has 100,000 Albanians, we have the mayor of Bujanovac, a majority Albanian city, one of the three in Presevo, in southern Serbia. We have Ragmi Mustafa and Ardita Sinani.

I just wanted to be sure that they know they are welcome. I know Shirley and I have been pushing, because we represent a nonprofit called the Albanian American Civic League, an advocacy group. We are volunteers; we don't get paid; but we are pushing for an Albanian study group.

The Albanians are the least understood people in Europe, Southeast Europe, and they were divided unfairly, after World War I, into six different countries to, clearly, politically keep them weak.

By the way, the honoree today, we know, Connie Morella. What you don't know and I found out through the Former Members Association, like my dad, she comes from a family that has Albanian roots. My dad came here in 1929 speaking only two languages—he was 15—Albanian and Italian. He comes from the people who were driven out of Albania in the 15th century by the Ottoman Turks and occupying for 425 years until World War I. Connie's family spoke Albanian, her grandparents, and so did mine.

Mr. FROST. And unlike many people in this room, I have actually been to Albania—it was an interesting experience—years and years ago, when I chaired a special task force of the House of Representatives to help the parliaments of Eastern and Central Europe after the Berlin Wall opened.

And I believe we now turn this back over to Cliff.

Sometimes we have leadership of both parties that come and speaks to us. I don't know if they were planning to come by today, but we are actually ending a little bit early.

So if we miss them, we are sorry. We had hoped that they would come by. They have done it in the past.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. President, thank you, Martin.

I think, as you pointed out, we were waiting for both the majority leader, STENY HOYER of Maryland, and the minority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY, between 8:45 and 9:00, and they might have had different schedules/commitments. So we will probably be here, in effect, if they come by.

Mr. FROST. Next is our distinguished minority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY from California.

Mr. MCCARTHY. It is an honor to be with you. A lot of you I have admired greatly. Some of you I have never gotten to meet. But part of the reason I ran, I watched you in public service,

and it is an amazing occupation, and we should honor it every chance we get.

There are days when we honor our democracy, so I am just going to tell you a quick story. If any of you have time and you want to come by my office—it is no longer in the majority side, but it is in the minority side over here. At one time it was the Speaker's office, whom some of you served, so you can find where it is.

In there I put paintings, and there is a reason why each painting that I put in there is from a different artist. I put my favorite Presidents, Lincoln and Reagan, and then I have the one of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." And this is the story I will tell you today.

When I look at the paintings, I always wonder what advice Lincoln would tell us. If you think about it, he was a Member of the House.

My favorite part whenever I give a tour is to go to Statuary Hall, stand right where Lincoln's desk is, and have my guests look back at the clock. I ask them to tell me what time it is because it is the exact same view and the exact same clock that Abraham Lincoln looked at. I am sure he did, and that is an opportunity to have.

But what would Lincoln tell us today? Lincoln would tell us to believe in the exceptionalism of this country; that we are different than any other country before us. And the reason why I believe that is, is the Gettysburg Address.

You all know it. "Four score and seven years ago our Fathers brought forth on this continent a new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

There has never been another country like ours. Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we are all equal. There is something about democracy that that brings forth.

When you think about the world today, Saudi Arabia just now allows women the right to drive, and it makes you think about where we have come from.

But the painting that I want you to look at, and some of you have served with me and you have been in that room, is "Washington Crossing the Delaware." You know of that painting. You know that it hangs in New York, but did you know the history of who actually painted that picture? It wasn't even an American. His name was Emanuel Leutze. He had lived in America. He was an immigrant.

He lived here for a number of years and went back to Germany, and painted a picture based upon the belief that he wanted to inspire the Germans to have a revolution because he believed America was more than a country, that America was an idea. And he wanted the revolution in Germany to inspire the idea of freedom and democracy.

So he doesn't get it historically correct, but we don't blame him, right?

The Delaware looks like the Rhine, but he is German, so we live with that.

He puts 13 people in a row boat. Why would he put 13? 13 colonies, right? But he only shows you 12 faces.

He gets it historically incorrect, because people will tell you Washington either crossed in a Durham boat or on a barge, but he just makes it a row boat. But he puts Washington in a ceremonial uniform, standing up, crossing the Delaware on Christmas, at night.

We think that probably is not true, but when you look at Washington, you would say, "I bet that man has never lost a battle." Well, history tells us he had not won yet; that was our first victory when we surprised the Hessians, right?

But what I want you to do when you look at the picture, I want you to see who is in the boat. And this is the story of why democracy matters.

If you look at the second person, he is wearing a beret; he is Scottish.

If you look at the person directly across from him in the denim jacket, he is African American.

You come down the boat to the mid-section, in the red is a woman. And in the very back, is a Native American.

I don't know if they were in the boat that night, but this young immigrant, that is who he believed—having lived in America—would have been in that boat.

But the second to last person is a farmer, and he has hand across his face. It is the hand of the 13th person nobody sees.

And what the young artist was saying, Here we are as a young nation—not even a nation yet, but an idea for a nation—an idea that we can self-govern, an idea about democracy, that we are willing to risk everything, having never won before, and do it on our holiest of nights: Here is a hand. Would you get in and join us?

I believe that is as true today as it was then.

It is not guaranteed, you have to earn it through each generation. And the service that you have provided actually passed the torch to the next.

I came here in 2007. I admired an individual, Connie Morella, who I watched stand up. She belonged to my party. And the part that I looked at is, I grew up in a family of Democrats, but I was a Republican based upon belief. And my belief was that an individual can govern themselves.

And I watched Connie stand up not only to things she disagreed with, but to things even within her own party. And she inspired people.

People would say she inspired a lot of women; she also inspired me.

And the idea that after she left this House she continued to work for democracy says a lot about who she is and why she was elected in the first place.

So it is an honor for me to be here today to say thank you for your service. And thank you, all of you, for what you contributed to this country.

Mr. STEARNS. We thank the distinguished minority leader.

And with that, let me close by saying, the Chair again, wishes to thank the former Members of the House and Senate for all of your presence today.

And before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll call was called to give their names to the reading clerk for inclusion in the roll.

I think Tom McMillen came in. Is there anyone else to add?

If not, the Association of Former Members of Congress and the report to Congress is closed.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May all citizens, for their part, feel empowered to encourage their Representatives to use their best judgment in considering how to address the many needs of our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BAIRD 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.

HISTORIC EMBASSY OPENING IN JERUSALEM

(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, on this day last year, I was grateful to lead nine House colleagues on a congressional delegation to Jerusalem for the opening of the U.S. Embassy.

We had the opportunity to meet with Members of the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, and to meet the Knesset Foreign Affairs chairman, Avi Dichter.

It was an honor to be welcomed to the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We have a shared priority to stop terrorism and anti-Semitism in both of our countries and around the world. I am confident in the leadership of Israel and know they will do all they can to protect and serve its citizens.

I am thankful for the strong commitment shown to the American-Israeli alliance by President Donald Trump, with promises made and promises kept. Ambassador David Friedman enthusiastically coordinated the Embassy movement, fulfilling a vote of Congress in 1994 to relocate from Tel Aviv to the capital of Jerusalem.

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

HONORING MIKE PIGGOTT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Piggott, who has become virtually an institution for the Lafayette community and Purdue University.

Mike has been an integral part of the greater Lafayette area for more than 40 years. He serves numerous roles at Purdue, including public address announcer for the men's basketball team and public orator for more than 100 commencement ceremonies.

Before working at Purdue, Mike was general manager at WLF1, and he was the television station's news director and news anchor for 14 years and news director at WASK radio for 13 years.

Mike's remarkable career focused on communicating with neighbors, friends, and alumni through sharing stories, delivering the news, and representing Purdue University.

His wife, Nancy, is a retired fourth grade teacher at Glen Acres Elementary. Together, they have two daughters, Jane and Julie, both married and living in the Indianapolis area, along with five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mike on his retirement and thank him for his dedication to our community.

CELEBRATING OUR INCREDIBLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Communist Government of

Cuba announced that it is launching widespread rationing of food due to the grave economic crisis in their country.

Unlike citizens of Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, and countless other nations, Americans know their grocery store shelves will be filled every day with an abundant supply of quality products at affordable prices, and that is thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of America's farmers and agribusinesses.

For Americans who lack the means to put food on the table, our taxpayers generously provide hundreds of billions of dollars for food stamps and other welfare benefits. Private entities such as churches and nonprofit food banks rely on the voluntary generosity of their members.

Yet it all starts with the supply of food. We could have fistfuls of \$100 bills and EBT cards, but that wouldn't matter if the grocery store shelves were bare.

As Americans, we must always celebrate our system of free enterprise and our incredible agricultural producers. We are, indeed, the envy of the world.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week.

Thousands of police officers from around the country are in Washington, D.C., this week, and I want to welcome them with the recognition and appreciation they deserve and that they don't always receive these days.

I thank the Capitol Police officers, Officers David Bailey and Crystal Griner, who saved many of my colleagues' lives less than 2 years ago when they took down an armed gunman at that baseball practice that we so famously heard about.

I am very thankful for our officers that we have in northern California, many who have had to work around the clock with some of the disasters we have had in recent years with the dam and the fires, who really helped make an orderly situation out of a lot of chaos.

Nationally, I hate to have to relate these statistics, but 163 police officers died in the line of duty last year, 52 from gunfire. Any number greater than zero is unacceptable.

In California, we lost 11 officers in 2018. This year, we tragically lost 22-year-old Davis Police Officer Natalie Corona, one of the most heartbreaking ones you might ever see. She was following in her father's footsteps, who was an officer for a long time in Colusa County.

Indeed, these men and women know it is a higher calling, a higher, 24-hour duty that they answer to for all of our safety. We appreciate them. We love

them, and let's always be sure we remember to show them that.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2019.

The Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 13, 2019, at 3:16 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President regarding the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Yemen.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-34)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, with respect to Yemen is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2019.

The actions and policies of certain former members of the Government of Yemen and others continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability, including by obstructing the political process in Yemen and the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 13, 2019.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 299, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 299) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 299

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF PRESUMPTIONS OF EXPOSURE FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VICINITY OF REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116 the following new section:

“§ 1116A. Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam

“(a) SERVICE CONNECTION.—For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of this title, a disease covered by section 1116 of this title becoming manifest as specified in that section in a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated by such service, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of such service.

“(b) EXPOSURE.—A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to

have been exposed during such service to an herbicide agent unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that service.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), the effective date of an award under this section shall be determined in accordance with section 5110 of this title.

“(2)(A) Notwithstanding subsection (g) of section 5110 of this title, the Secretary shall determine the effective date of an award based on a claim under this section for an individual described in subparagraph (B) by treating the date on which the individual filed the prior claim specified in clause (i) of such subparagraph as the date on which the individual filed the claim so awarded under this section.

“(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is a veteran, or a survivor of a veteran, who meets the following criteria:

“(i) The veteran or survivor submitted a claim for disability compensation on or after September 25, 1985, and before January 1, 2020, for a disease covered by this section, and the claim was denied by reason of the claim not establishing that the disease was incurred or aggravated by the service of the veteran.

“(ii) The veteran or survivor submits a claim for disability compensation on or after January 1, 2020, for the same condition covered by the prior claim under clause (i), and the claim is approved pursuant to this section.

“(d) DETERMINATION OF OFFSHORE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall treat a location as being offshore of Vietnam if the location is not more than 12 nautical miles seaward of a line commencing on the southwestern demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia and intersecting the following points:

“Points Geographic Names	Latitude North	Longitude East
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0'	103°27.0'
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Island Minh Hai Province	8°22.8'	104°52.4'
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao-Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8'	106°37.5'
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9'	106°40.3'
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7'	106°42.1'
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0'	109°5.0'
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0'	109°28.0'
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8'	109°27.2'
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.0'	109°21.0'
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.1'	109° 9.0'
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.0'	107°20.6'

“(e) HERBICIDE AGENT.—In this section, the term ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given that term in section 1116(a)(3) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1116 the following new item:

“1116A. Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam.”.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance to implement section 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), before prescribing new regulations under such section.

(2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the plans of the Secretary—

(i) to conduct outreach under subsection (d); and

(ii) to respond to inquiries from veterans regarding claims for disability compensation under section 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) On a quarterly basis during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which regulations are prescribed to carry out such section 1116A, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the

House of Representatives and the Senate updates on the status of such regulations.

(3) PENDING CASES.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary may stay a claim described in subparagraph (B) until the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of such section 1116A.

(B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim described in this subparagraph is a claim for disability compensation—

(i) relating to the service and diseases covered by such section 1116A; and

(ii) that is pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Board of Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and before the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of such section 1116A.

(d) OUTREACH.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct outreach to inform veterans described in paragraph (2) of the ability to submit a claim for disability compensation under section 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such outreach shall include the following:

(A) The Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department a notice that a veterans described in paragraph (2) may submit or resubmit a claim for disability compensation under such section 1116A.

(B) The Secretary shall notify in writing the veteran service organization community of the ability of veterans described in paragraph (2) to submit or resubmit claims for disability compensation under such section 1116A.

(2) VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report regarding claims for disability compensation under section 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Each report shall include, with respect to the calendar year preceding the report, disaggregated by the regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the following:

(1) The number of claims filed under such section.

(2) The number of such claims granted.

(3) The number of such claims denied.

(f) HEALTH CARE.—Section 1710(e)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including offshore of such Republic as described in section 1116A(d) of this title)” after “served on active duty in the Republic of Vietnam”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

SEC. 3. PRESUMPTION OF HERBICIDE EXPOSURE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116A, as added by section 2, the following new section:

“§ 1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea

“(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION.—(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of this title, a disease specified in subsection (b) that becomes manifest as specified in that subsection in a veteran described in paragraph (2) shall be considered to have been in-

curred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of such service.

“(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), during the period beginning on September 1, 1967, and ending on August 31, 1971.

“(b) DISEASES.—A disease specified in this subsection is—

“(1) a disease specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of section 1116 of this title that becomes manifest as specified in that paragraph; or

“(2) any additional disease that—

“(A) the Secretary determines in regulations warrants a presumption of service-connection by reason of having positive association with exposure to an herbicide agent; and

“(B) becomes manifest within any period prescribed in such regulations.

“(c) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given such term in section 1821(d) of this title.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1116A, as added by section 2, the following new item:

“1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea.”

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance to implement section 1116B of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), before prescribing new regulations under such section.

(2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the plans of the Secretary to respond to inquiries from veterans regarding claims for disability compensation under section 1116B of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) On a quarterly basis during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which regulations are prescribed to carry out such section 1116B, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate updates on the status of such regulations.

(3) PENDING CASES.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary may stay a claim described in subparagraph (B) until the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of section 1116B of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim described in this subparagraph is a claim for disability compensation—

(i) relating to the service and diseases covered by such section 1116B; and

(ii) that is pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Board of Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and before the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of such section 1116B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

SEC. 4. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN THAILAND SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended

by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida

“(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may provide to any child of a veteran of covered service in Thailand who is suffering from spina bifida the health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance required to be paid to a child of a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from spina bifida under subchapter I of this chapter as if such child of a veteran of covered service in Thailand were a child of a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from spina bifida under such subchapter.

“(b) SPINA BIFIDA CONDITIONS COVERED.—This section applies with respect to all forms and manifestations of spina bifida, except spina bifida occulta.

“(c) VETERAN OF COVERED SERVICE IN THAILAND.—For purposes of this section, a veteran of covered service in Thailand is any individual, without regard to the characterization of that individual's service, who—

“(1) served in the active military, naval, or air service in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975; and

“(2) is determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have been exposed to a herbicide agent during such service in Thailand.

“(d) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘herbicide agent’ means a chemical in a herbicide used in support of United States and allied military operations in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF “CHILD”.—Section 1831(1) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “subchapter III of this chapter” and inserting “section 1821 of this title”; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking “section 1821 of this title” and inserting “that section”; and

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

“(C) For purposes of section 1822 of this title, an individual, regardless of age or marital status, who—

“(i) is the natural child of a veteran of covered service in Thailand (as determined for purposes of that section); and

“(ii) was conceived after the date on which that veteran first entered service described in subsection (c) of that section.”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SUBCHAPTER HEADING.—The heading for subchapter III of chapter 18 of such title is amended by inserting “AND THAILAND” after “KOREA”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA AND THAILAND SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA”;

and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 1821 the following new item:

“1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida.”

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance to implement section 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), before prescribing new regulations under such section.

(2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the plans of the Secretary to respond to inquiries from veterans regarding claims for disability compensation under section 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) On a quarterly basis during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which regulations are prescribed to carry out such section 1822, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate updates on the status of such regulations.

(3) PENDING CASES.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary may stay a claim described in subparagraph (B) until the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of section 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim described in this subparagraph is a claim for benefits—

(i) relating to the spina bifida and service covered by such section 1822; and

(ii) that is pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Board of Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and before the date on which the Secretary commences the implementation of such section 1822.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs

of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report identifying—

(1) the military installations of the United States located in Thailand during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, at which an herbicide agent (as defined in section 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) was actively used; and

(2) the period of such use.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

SEC. 5. UPDATED REPORT ON CERTAIN GULF WAR ILLNESS STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an updated report on the findings, as of the date of the updated report, of the Follow-up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans under the epidemiology program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 6. LOANS GUARANTEED UNDER HOME LOAN PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3703(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “the lesser of the maximum guaranty amount (as defined in subparagraph (C)) or”;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “subparagraph (B) of this paragraph” and inserting “subparagraph (B) or (C)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “The maximum” and inserting “With respect to loans described in subclauses (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(i), the maximum”;

(ii) by striking “or in the case” and all that follows through “subparagraph (C),”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph (C):

“(C)(i) With respect to loans described in subclause (IV) of subparagraph (A)(i) made to a veteran not covered by clause (ii), the maximum amount of guaranty entitlement available to the veteran shall be 25 percent of the loan.

“(ii) With respect to loans described in subclause (IV) of subparagraph (A)(i) made to a covered veteran, the maximum amount of guaranty entitlement available to the veteran shall be 25 percent of the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit, reduced by the amount of entitlement previously used by the veteran under this chapter and not restored as a result of the exclusion in section 3702(b) of this title.

“(iii) In this subparagraph:

“(I) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who has previously used entitlement under this chapter and for whom the full amount of entitlement so used has not been restored as a result of the exclusion in section 3702(b) of this title.

“(II) The term ‘Freddie Mac conforming loan limit’ means the limit determined under section 305(a)(2) of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2)) for a single-family residence, as adjusted for the year involved.”.

(2) LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.—Section 3762(c) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3710(d)(4) of such title is amended by striking “section 3703(a)(1)(B) of this title” and inserting “subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 3703(a)(1) of this title”.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN FEES.—Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking the loan fee table and inserting the following:

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(A)(i) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)	2.15	2.40	NA
(A)(ii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	2.30	2.30	NA
(A)(iii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	2.15	2.15	NA
(A)(iv) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	1.40	1.40	NA
(B)(i) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(ii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	3.60	3.60	NA
(B)(iii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(iv) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(C)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.50	1.75	NA
(C)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	1.65	1.65	NA

"Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(C)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	1.50	1.50	NA
(C)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.75	0.75	NA
(D)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.25	1.50	NA
(D)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	1.40	1.40	NA
(D)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(D)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.50	0.50	NA
(E) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan	0.50	0.50	NA
(F) Direct loan under section 3711	1.00	1.00	NA
(G) Manufactured home loan under section 3712 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.00	1.00	NA
(H) Loan to Native American veteran under section 3762 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.25	1.25	NA
(I) Loan assumption under section 3714	0.50	0.50	0.50
(J) Loan under section 3733(a)	2.25	2.25	2.25"

(c) WAIVER OF FEES FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS.—Section 3729(c)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “or from a surviving spouse” and inserting “, from a surviving spouse”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or from a member of the Armed Forces who is serving on active duty and who provides, on or before the date of loan closing, evidence of having been awarded the Purple Heart”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a loan guaranteed under section 3710 of title 38, United States Code, on or after January 1, 2020.

(e) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance to implement this section before prescribing new regulations under sections 3703, 3729, and 3762 of such title, as amended by this section.

SEC. 7. INFORMATION GATHERING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOAN APPRAISALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3731(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The Secretary shall permit an appraiser on a list developed and maintained under subsection (a)(3) to make an appraisal for the purposes of this chapter based solely on information gathered by a person with whom the appraiser has entered into an agreement for such services.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to an appraisal under section 3731 of such title, on or after January 1, 2020.

(c) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance to implement this section before prescribing new regulations under sections 3731 of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gen-

tleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, for the second time in 2 years, this House has arrived at a turning point in the journey to adjust VA compensation policy and finally recognize U.S. Navy sailors who were exposed to toxic herbicides during the Vietnam war.

Congress has failed our blue water Navy veterans, plain and simple. Those who have advocated for and participated in the process to bring this legislation to the House floor know this history is deeply tragic. By not granting the benefits these veterans earned more than 40 years ago, these veterans and their survivors continue to experience immeasurable pain, death, and grief caused by the spraying of 12.1 million gallons of highly toxic Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. It was unjust then, and it is unjust now. But today, we have an opportunity to right this wrong.

For Members of Congress, this fraught history comes with a responsibility to provide compensation and care for the injury Agent Orange exposure has caused. Though the exposures occurred primarily in the 1960s, Congress didn't find the resolve to act until 1991, and it left out key groups of veterans exposed to Agent Orange, effectively denying their suffering that was a direct result of their military service.

Today, we will right this wrong by including three additional categories of veterans injured by Agent Orange: the blue water Navy Vietnam veterans; the veterans who served in the Korean DMZ; and children with spina bifida born to parents exposed during their service in Thailand.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 is the quickest and surest way to deliver benefits to these veterans. It is the direct result of bipartisan efforts by Ranking Member

PHIL ROE and myself to bring this to the House floor for consideration.

The 2019 version of H.R. 299 is an updated version of the act this House passed unanimously last Congress. It follows the Federal circuit court decision in Procopio. That case reversed VA's 1997 decision to deny the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans that served off the shores of Vietnam.

The Procopio decision was a huge step forward, but we need more. We need to ensure blue water Navy veterans are protected in the event Procopio is appealed to the Supreme Court and overturned.

That is why we have worked together with veteran service organizations to establish, without doubt, that blue water Navy veterans are entitled to this presumption.

Our current proposal is very similar to the bill passed in the last Congress. It includes crucial geo-coordinates that require VA to recognize service off the shore of Vietnam when deciding claims for disability compensation for herbicide-related diseases.

Let me repeat: This proposal is the quickest and clearest route to delivering benefits to those deserving veterans. They have waited long enough.

H.R. 299 has the full support of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and many other veteran service organizations.

I have two letters signed by 25 of these organizations, and I included them in the RECORD.

MAY 13, 2019.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Veterans' Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PHIL ROE,
Ranking Member, House Veterans' Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER DR. ROE: As leaders of major veterans' organizations, and on behalf of our more than 5 million combined members, we write to offer our strongest support for H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans

Act and to encourage all Members of Congress to vote to approve this legislation.

As you know, during the 115th Congress, Blue Water Navy legislation passed the House by a vote of 382 to 0; however, the bill was not successful in the Senate. We thank you both for reintroducing Blue Water Navy veteran legislation in the 116th Congress and we are grateful that with your leadership H.R. 299 was unanimously reported out of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on May 8, 2019.

When VA implemented the Agent Orange Act of 1991, it determined that veterans who received the Vietnam Service Medal, to include those who served in the waters offshore, were exposed to Agent Orange. In 1993, a VA General Counsel opinion held that veterans with service in the waters offshore were exposed to Agent Orange. However, in 1997, VA General Counsel opined that the 1996 Veterans Benefits Improvements Act determined only veterans who physically served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange, although that was not stated in the law.

To clarify, from 1991 to 1997 veterans with service in the waters offshore of Vietnam were considered to have been exposed to Agent Orange, as Congress intended. The 1997 decision to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans was not based on medical or scientific evidence, law, or Congressional intent; it was based on a misinterpretation.

On January 29th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Procopio v. Wilkie*, overruled VA's previous misinterpretations and determined that service in the Republic of Vietnam includes the territorial waters within 12 nautical miles of the baseline.

H.R. 299 would fully protect Procopio's holdings that service in the Republic of Vietnam includes the territorial waters. The bill would use the same grid coordinates in the legislation approved by the House last year, which would extend beyond 12 nautical miles in some locations, particularly the Mekong Delta.

H.R. 299 will also expand benefits for Korean DMZ veterans who suffer from diseases and illnesses directly linked to Agent Orange. The bill would provide an earlier date of exposure for Vietnam Era veterans who served on the DMZ.

This legislation would also expand coverage for those children suffering from spina bifida because of their parents' exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Thailand during the Vietnam War. This change would provide these children benefits on par with those received by children of Vietnam veterans.

For decades, tens of thousands of veterans, their families, and survivors have been denied their earned benefits. While it is long past due, it is time that we correct the injustice done to Blue Water Navy veterans and provide protection of the Procopio decision by passing H.R. 299.

We thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans. We look forward to the day when we will finally pay a long overdue debt to tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans, their families and survivors.

Respectfully,

EDWARD R. REESE, JR.,
Executive Director,
Washington Headquarters, DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

LOUIS CELLI, JR.,
Executive Director,
Government & Veterans Affairs, The American Legion.

RICK WEIDMAN,
Executive Director for Policy, Vietnam Veterans of America.

DANA T. ATKINS,
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), President, Military Officers Association of America.

ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

CARL BLAKE,
Executive Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

JOSEPH R. CHENELLY,
Executive Director, AMVETS.

DOUGLAS GREENLAW,
National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

NATIONAL MILITARY & VETERANS ALLIANCE,
May 11, 2019.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. PHIL ROE,
Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER ROE: The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, is pleased to offer our support for H.R. 299. H.R. 299—The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. H.R. 299 recognizes and brings relief to veterans who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975 by amending Title 38 to recognize the presumption that these veterans have been exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of such service.

Our organizations are all familiar with the history of Agent Orange and its use in Vietnam. The United States spread over 20,000,000 gallons of the potent chemical-laced herbicide over southern Vietnam throughout the 1960's and first part of the 1970's. These areas included coastal regions and the areas around rivers and streams that emptied into the South China Sea where our Blue Water Navy service members operated.

U.S. Government-initiated studies have proven that Agent Orange causes cancer and birth defects and there are now numerous documented ways that "Blue Water" sailors, like their "Brown Water" shipmates, were exposed to Agent Orange while serving aboard ships in these contaminated areas.

One of the benefits of military service, whether in peace or in a time of war, is the peace of mind that comes with knowing that veterans and their families will be cared for. Politics should, under no circumstances, ever interfere with that peace of mind. The enactment of H.R. 299 will ensure that the veterans and their families who have suffered from the use of Agent Orange by the United States in Vietnam will finally receive the care and relief they need.

NMVA is also pleased that H.R. 299 solves another inequity by finally extending the VA Home Loan funding fee waiver to active duty Purple Heart recipients. Currently, this waiver is granted only to veterans with VA

service-connected disabilities, and we see absolutely no reason why combat-wounded service members, the vast majority of whom will almost certainly qualify for VA disability compensation upon discharge, should be denied this significant benefit, simply because they continue to serve in uniform.

NMVA thanks you for your leadership on these issues and your commitment to service members, veterans, retirees and their families. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

TED PAINTER,
Co-Director, National Military & Veterans Alliance, Executive Director, Armed Forces Retirees Association.

ALEKS MOROSK,
Co-Director, National Military & Veterans Alliance, National Legislative Director, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

NATIONAL MILITARY AND VETERANS ALLIANCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THIS LETTER

American Military Society, American Retirees Association, AMVETS, Armed Forces Retirees Association, Army and Navy Union, Association of the United States Navy, Military Order of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the World Wars, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Reserve Officers Association, Sea Service Family Foundation, Society of Military Widows, The Independence Fund, The Retired Enlisted Association, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, VetsFirst, Vietnam Veterans of America.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention the efforts we made to pay for this bill, so it can pass the Senate this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office scores.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2019.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Logan Smith.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

[By fiscal year, millions of dollars]

	2019	2019–2024	2019–2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	135	–75
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	135	–75
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	70	191

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030? \$5 billion.

Mandate Effects:
Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.
Contains private-sector mandate? No.
The bill would:

Modify home loan programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
Increase disability compensation and expand health care for more veterans who

served in the seas near Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Provide disability compensation to certain veterans who served near the Korea Demilitarized Zone.

Provide payments, vocational training, rehabilitation services, and health care to the biological children of certain veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam War if those children have been diagnosed with Spina Bifida.

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from:

Changes to VA's home loan programs.
Increased disability compensation and health care benefits for certain veterans.

Areas of significant uncertainty include:
The number of veterans affected by the bill and the change in their disability ratings.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, the decision in Procopio removed much of the cost issues both Chambers struggled with in the last Congress. Because we are covering more veterans than the Procopio decision, the ranking member and I included a mechanism in the bill to cover both the mandatory and discretionary costs. As was the case with the bill that passed last Congress, the pay-for results from raising the current rate of the filing fee veterans pay when applying for a home loan under the VA mortgage guarantee program.

We are running out of time to do what is right for the blue water Navy veterans and the survivors of those veterans we have already lost. It is time for Congress to make our intention clear. The evidence supports granting this presumption in favor of these veterans.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 which would extend the presumption of exposure to herbicides to veterans who served in the offshore waters of Vietnam.

I want to thank Chairman TAKANO for reintroducing this legislation and for working with me to get this bill to the House floor.

It is no surprise that the fight for our blue water Navy Vietnam veterans to receive the benefits they deserve is near and dear to me. Last Congress, I was heartened by the overwhelming support for these veterans when the House passed H.R. 299 by a vote of 382-0.

To say the least, I was very disappointed that last year's bill stalled in the Senate, and never made it to the President's desk. However, with 333 cosponsors, it is my hope this legislation passes the House with the same bipartisan support as last year's package, and the Senate takes it up quickly. I know that is an oxymoron in the Senate, but quickly.

As many of you know, Agent Orange was used in Vietnam to defoliate areas in the jungle where enemy forces would ambush our troops. When Vietnam veterans began developing diseases as a result of their contact with Agent Or-

ange, Congress legislated the Agent Orange presumption to streamline benefits for affected veterans.

Unfortunately, the Department of Veterans Affairs' longstanding practice was to limit the presumption to veterans who set foot, boots on the ground, in Vietnam or served in inland waterways or brown water.

The blue water Navy Vietnam veterans were excluded from the presumption because VA claims there was not enough information to determine whether they came into contact with herbicides. As a result, blue water Navy Vietnam veterans must provide evidence that they were actually harmed by herbicides.

I understand how incredibly difficult this must be for veterans who try to find any records for potential exposure. I served in the United States 2nd Infantry Division in Korea near the DMZ, and I have no way to prove where I walked there 40-something years ago. There is just no way to prove that.

But right now, these veterans are suffering from conditions that are known to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange, and I believe Congress must act to resolve this issue definitively.

The recent court decision in Procopio was a huge victory for our blue water Navy Vietnam veterans. However, it is unclear how VA plans to implement the court's holdings. Congress should not wait for this issue to work itself out by VA or the courts.

These veterans have waited long enough to receive acknowledgment from VA that their illnesses may have been caused by their military service.

Mr. Speaker, 523 Vietnam veterans are dying each day. So, if the VA and this government waits long enough, we will all die. We need to get this done.

We must pass H.R. 299, as amended, so that our blue water Navy Vietnam veterans can qualify for the same benefits as their boots-on-the-ground and brown-water Navy comrades.

Moreover, H.R. 299 not only addresses the concerns of blue water Navy Vietnam veterans, but also includes provisions that would: one, extend the presumption to veterans who served in or near the Korean DMZ on September 1, 1967; provide benefits to certain children of Thailand veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange; and require VA to identify the U.S. military bases located in Thailand where Agent Orange was used and when it was used.

Mr. Speaker, one of my best friends I will ever have in my life who served on one of those air bases died of a very rare lymphoma. The perimeter was sprayed with Agent Orange, and he died about 4 years ago.

H.R. 299 also provides an update on current research on their potential or in-service toxic exposures of the Gulf War veterans.

Finally, this bill would make several improvements to the VA home loan program, including: changing VA's home appraisal system so that vet-

erans can close on their homes quicker and more seamlessly; eliminating the conforming home loan limit to allow veterans to use their earned VA loan benefits in more expensive areas; extending the waiver of home loan funding fees to recipients of the Purple Heart who are still serving on Active Duty; and temporarily increasing VA's home loan funding fees for nondisabled veterans, which would offset the cost of the bill.

I would be remiss if I did not thank veteran service organizations for their unwavering support on this issue. I am particularly grateful to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, AMVETS, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart for their hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I just read a study that was published yesterday that the United States is going into Vietnam and providing some benefits for some of the people there whose offspring were damaged. We are also doing megasite cleanups. We are spending tens of millions of dollars to clean up Da Nang and Bien Hoa, the two major air bases where this Agent Orange was used.

It is time we did the same thing for America's veterans here in the United States. That is the right thing to do there. It is the right thing to do here.

I think I can speak for all of us today when I say that H.R. 299, as amended, does the right thing for our veterans.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 299, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA). She is my good friend and the chairwoman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and also a cosponsor of H.R. 299.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. As a Navy veteran myself, this issue hits close to home, specifically in coastal Virginia, the district that I have the honor of representing.

At my first townhall after taking office, the wife of a Virginia Beach Vietnam veteran posed a deeply personal question. She said to me: Where is the blue water Navy sailor bill? I have a dying vet at home from Agent Orange who wants his country to respond to his service during Vietnam.

After the townhall, I talked with her more in depth on the issue, and with tears in her eyes, she asked me again for help and to make sure Congress did not forget her husband's service and what he sacrificed for our country.

I stand today to speak on behalf of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act so that my constituent and

so many others across the Nation will know that we have not forsaken their service.

I am thankful to the House of Representatives for stepping up to the plate and fulfilling our responsibility to our veterans and their service to America. I am proud to support their cause today.

This bipartisan bill on the floor would finally correct an injustice for veterans who are suffering and dying from conditions related to Agent Orange exposure and who have been unfairly denied VA disability and health benefits for more than four decades.

For those who may not know, blue water Navy Vietnam veterans are servicemembers who served at sea off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam war.

A Federal Court, in January, ruled that the VA was wrong in denying disability and health benefits to blue water Navy Vietnam veterans who were exposed to the toxin Agent Orange; however, the administration has not yet committed to implementing this decision. As a result, the blue water Navy veterans are still in limbo, and Congress must act to secure their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge quick House passage of our bipartisan legislation so our Senate colleagues can do the same and get this to the White House and pass it into law.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who was the previous chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and is now ranking member.

Mr. MIKE BOST is a marine veteran who also led a bill that we passed 2 years ago, the appeals modernization bill, a bill that has helped so many disabled veterans get their claims adjudicated more quickly.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.

I am a marine and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Caring for our Nation's men and women who have served is a top priority for me and for my staff and, I know, for the members of this committee. They should have peace of mind knowing that they will be cared for by this grateful Nation.

I have had many veterans come into my office with health problems. Sometimes they can't pinpoint the problem at all, but all too often they can if they served in Vietnam: It is exposure to Agent Orange.

We now have 100,000 Navy veterans who served on ships during the Vietnam war and later became ill from their service due to exposure to Agent Orange. Unfortunately, without this legislation, they do not qualify for the same benefits as their fellow veterans who served on the ground.

We must do better. Today's legislation is a step forward in the right di-

rection. This critical legislation ensures they receive benefits for any condition they may have developed as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. It is a bipartisan bill, and it puts our veterans first.

As has been mentioned before, we passed this bill to the Senate last Congress. Unfortunately, the Senate did not, and was not, able to take it up. My hope and my prayer is that we pass this quickly, that it goes to the Senate, that they quickly do their job, and that, with that, we can get it to this President's desk, get it signed, and take care of these veterans who deserve it and have waited so long.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that my good friend, Congressman COURTNEY from Connecticut, is, unfortunately, unable to join us to speak in support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act due to an illness. The gentleman from Connecticut has been a steadfast advocate for the blue water Navy veterans and the veterans in his district, and I want to express my gratitude to him for pushing the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the House to right this wrong and ensure veterans receive the benefits they are owed.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER). DAN MEUSER is a new and very dedicated member of our committee.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as well in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, an important bipartisan bill that will finally guarantee equality for the blue water Navy Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange was used by the U.S. military to strategically clear terrain and deforest areas during the Vietnam war. This tactical chemical has been linked, however, to prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, and many other diseases.

For far too long, only veterans who served on Vietnam's landmass or inland waterways were entitled to the service-connected presumption of exposure to Agent Orange. This legislation ensures that the same automatic presumption is provided to those who served in the territorial seas of Vietnam. H.R. 299 addresses and permanently fixes this by properly defining those who will be eligible for VA benefits related to Agent Orange.

With this bill, we ensure that blue water Navy veterans will be treated fairly and will receive the benefits and care they deserve. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bill, and I will continue to work for our Nation's veterans, providing them the care and benefits they have earned.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to pay tribute to the late Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr., from North Carolina, who cosponsored H.R. 299 at the very beginning of this Congress. It saddens me that we weren't able to pass this bipartisan bill into law before his passing. As a former member of the North Carolina National Guard, he would be proud to know that this bill was being considered on the House floor today and that we will continue to push to get this legislation passed into law.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the chairman. I know Walter's family appreciates that. He served this House, this Chamber, honorably for so many years and was an incredible supporter of our Nation's veterans. I know his family and I certainly appreciate the chairman's acknowledging his service and his dedication to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN). I have been to his district, and there is no better and more fervent supporter of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, and I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the entire committee in a bipartisan fashion again. This is the second time that the House has taken action to pass this legislation. It is incredibly important for the Senate to do their part to help make this actually become law. I am looking forward to that bill signing, and it is decades overdue.

I rise today in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor. This bill expands treatment coverage for those affected by Agent Orange from not only those who served on the ground, but to those servicemembers who are known as blue water Navy vets who were affected while serving our Nation at sea.

I live in a county called Suffolk in the State of New York. We have the largest veterans population of any county in the entire State. Thousands of Vietnam veterans and their families would now be able to receive benefits that they have earned. These brave servicemembers have put their lives on the line for our great Nation, and they have earned nothing less than the highest quality care.

Additionally, this legislation includes my bill, the Flexible VA Loan Guarantee Act, which expands veterans' opportunity for homeownership by eliminating the loan limit the VA can guarantee. This is especially critical in districts like mine.

I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge all my colleagues in the Chamber to vote for it.

As I mentioned, this is the second time this legislation is passing the House. It is incredibly important that

all those in the Capitol on the other side in the Senate do the same. I urge them to immediately take up the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act and care for all of our Nation's servicemembers.

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

I want to take a moment on this historic day to recognize the effort of former Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tim Walz. He was a primary mover of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act for 12 years while he was in Congress, and I know this effort was very important to him.

He said many times that compensating and providing care for toxic exposures is one of the greatest challenges the Veterans' Affairs Committee faces but that no veteran should ever have to wait more than 40 years again.

When he left, he challenged us to make sure that this pattern of denying benefits does not continue. As chairman of this committee, I will do what I can to meet Tim Walz's challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Tim has a big smile on his face in the Governor's mansion back in Minnesota, and I just want him to know that he has had a big part in today's victory.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we all know why dioxin, or Agent Orange, was sprayed in Vietnam. At the time we thought, our government thought, that we were protecting our troops by spraying this defoliant to expose the hiding places where they were being ambushed. We understand that. I get that.

Mr. Speaker, if you were at an air base in Thailand and you were being attacked on the perimeter, I understand why it was being done. It turns out it was a horrific mistake, and it is costing lives now.

It is time to do the right thing, and the right thing with 523 of us dying each day is to pass this bill, H.R. 299, and get it to the Senate. I believe the chairman and I would like to challenge the Senate to start hearing this and perhaps even vote on it before Memorial Day. That would be the right thing to do.

Also, I want to thank Congressman David Valadao, who is no longer here, along with my good friend Mr. Walz, who is now the Governor of Minnesota. Congressman Valadao was very helpful. There was not a day on the House floor that I was down here that David was not asking me: When are we going to get the Blue Water Navy bill passed? When are we going to pass this bill?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop talking about it, and it is time to do something about it. The reason that it is important to not let the courts decide is another court may decide just like 1997, when they changed what the VA was doing. So it is time to put this in the footprint of the law so that there is no question about what we do.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank him for when he was a member of the committee when I was chairman of the last Congress, how hard we all worked in a bipartisan way to get this done.

Just so the public knows, last week, we passed 18 bills—this is one of them—out of our committee in a bipartisan way on a voice vote. Congress can work. This is one of the ways it does work very well. Again, I want to thank my staff and the majority staff for their help with this.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, passage of this legislation is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to right an injustice. I urge all my colleagues to champion this legislation, H.R. 299, as amended, so we can finally pass it into law and get justice for these veterans.

I associate myself with the challenge that the ranking member has made to the Senate. I would have rather they got it done by the end of the week, but I would be perfectly happy if we get the Blue Water Navy bill done by Memorial Day.

□ 1530

I, too, want to congratulate the hard work of my staff and your staff, for their working together. The solidarity that our staffs had in getting this bill to the floor, done, and tied with a ribbon and bow was really important. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit that not only exists between me and the gentleman, and the members of our committee, but also the spirit of cooperation that exists with our respective staffs.

Mr. Speaker, the Veterans' Affairs Committee is that corner of Congress that still works. It is with great pride today that I close out these remarks and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 299, as amended.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

During the Vietnam War, the United States Military sprayed approximately 20 million gallons of Agent Orange, across the southern half of Vietnam to destroy jungle foliage that concealed enemy personnel and supply routes. The Agent Orange was carried into rivers by soil and plant run-off. The hydraulic plumes from where the rivers met the coast mixed hundreds of miles of coastal water with contaminated river water. To make matters worse, rivers and harbors were also sprayed, contaminating the ocean water even further.

Due to the constant churning of the seabed from U.S. Navy Vessels moving up and down the coast, the Agent Orange would rise to the surface where it would be picked up every time Navy ships converted the salt water into potable water. A University of Queensland study on the Australian distillation system, which is the identical system used in U.S.

ships, determined that the conversion process enriched the toxic chemical ingredient Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) in Agent Orange to an even higher concentration in the filtered water. The contaminated water was then used by a ship's crew for cooking, cleaning, showering, laundry, and drinking, effectively giving our sailors a heavy exposure to Agent Orange during their deployment.

Medical research concluded that exposure to the dioxin found in Agent Orange causes numerous health issues including respiratory and blood cancers, prostate cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. According to a report from the Institute of Medicine, individuals with exposure to Agent Orange at an increased risk of developing serious heart problems and Parkinson's disease.

Until 2002, presumptive coverage for accessing health care for these side effects was provided to our Blue Water Navy Veterans. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs, failed to recognize the territorial seas as a part of the sovereign territory of Vietnam. The VA unilaterally decided that it would only provide presumptive coverage to those Veterans who served on land or on inland waterways.

Veterans that were exposed to these toxic chemicals, while serving their country have been neglected for too long. Congress must act on this pressing issue by passing this important piece of legislation that is supported by 333 co-sponsors. H.R. 299 extends the presumption of exposure for service connection for diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange to U.S. Navy Veterans who served offshore during wartime missions and also lengthens eligibility for VA benefits to certain children with spina bifida who were born to Veterans who served in Thailand and were exposed to Agent Orange.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill. Those Veterans who sacrificed their lives on behalf of America's freedom truly deserve better.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (H.R. 299).

When our brave men and women sign up to serve, the American people make a promise to them. We assure them of clearly defined benefits that are guaranteed upon completion of their service. Unfortunately, for many veterans of the Vietnam era who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, our government fell short of this solemn duty.

In 1991, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act, legislation that instituted the presumption of service connection for certain diseases linked to exposure to defoliants and herbicides like Agent Orange. This law built upon the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act of 1984 that directed the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a system of disability compensation for Vietnam era veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange.

However, these laws failed to acknowledge that veterans who served in the territorial seas during the Vietnam War, known as Blue Water Navy Veterans, were also exposed to Agent Orange. In addition to handling toxic chemicals onboard naval vessels, many of these chemicals polluted rivers and streams in Vietnam that ran into the territorial seas. This contaminated water was then used by the U.S. Navy for drinking, bathing, and other purposes.

H.R. 299 finally acknowledges that our Blue Water Navy Veterans were exposed to these toxic chemicals. It remedies the inequity among veterans of the Vietnam era by extending the presumption of service connection for certain conditions to those who served offshore, and it is a long overdue step towards making these veterans whole. I hope that the Senate will swiftly take up this legislation once the House passes it today.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and finally welcome back home our Blue Water Navy Veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 299, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TAKANO. 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.

REAUTHORIZING BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2379) to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2379

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

SECTION 1. BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(23)) is amended by striking “part Y” and all that follows and inserting “part Y, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

(b) PROGRAM NAME.—Part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10531 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 2501 the following:

“SEC. 2500. PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

“The program under this part shall be known as the ‘Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program’.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program stands as a shining example of the public safety collaboration between Congress and local governments to improve public safety and protect the officers who protect us.

In the 20 years that the program has been in existence, Congress has allocated funds that have enabled local law enforcement agencies to purchase more than 1.3 million bulletproof vests. Through this program, thousands of officers have survived what would otherwise have been deadly shootings.

Without the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, local jurisdictions that lack the financial means to purchase vests would simply be unable to do so.

As reauthorized under H.R. 2379, the program would give priority to small jurisdictions that apply for assistance. Those that most need the Federal support will continue to have priority.

An often-overlooked element of the program is the supporting role the National Institute of Justice plays in providing expert analysis on the quality and life expectancy of bulletproof vests, ensuring that officers who patrol our streets every day and every night wear vests that will give them the measure of safety that they deserve. Importantly, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has worked in recent years to ensure the vests that female officers are issued fit properly and provide the same protection as the vests that male officers are issued.

With H.R. 2379, the House today takes a crucial step toward ending an uncertainty concerning the future of the program by permanently authorizing its funding at \$30 million per year.

It is fitting that we consider this important legislation at the start of National Police Week, which honors those who serve and have paid the ultimate price and sacrifice in protecting our communities.

Since President John F. Kennedy first signed the proclamation designating National Peace Officers Memorial Day in 1962, officers and citizens assemble in our Nation’s Capital during Police Week to thank law enforcement officers for their service, dedication, and commitment.

It is in that spirit that we seek to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. It is also fitting that this bill names the program in honor of the distinguished Senator from Vermont, PATRICK LEAHY, who played a critical role in conceiving it and who has been a consistent champion of its continuation and, now, its permanent reauthorization.

I thank Senator LEAHY for his leadership.

I would be remiss if I were not to recognize the tireless efforts of the author of H.R. 2379, my good friend Congressman BILL PASCRELL, who has worked diligently to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill that will help protect those who put their lives on the line to protect us. I urge my colleagues to support it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2379, a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, and I would also like to thank Mr. PASCRELL for his work on this. This is something that we have seen over many years, and I appreciate the chairman and my friend from Georgia on the committee for bringing this forward as well.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership, or the BVP, created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to State and local law enforcement. The goal of the BVP is to support the purchase of body armor that has been tested and found to comply with applicable ballistic and stab standards promulgated by the National Institute of Justice.

For the past 20 years, the BVP has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$467 million in Federal funds for the purchase of over 1.3 million vests.

From fiscal year 2015 through 2017, protective vests were directly attributable to saving the lives of at least 129 law enforcement and corrections officers. BVP funds helped purchase 21 of those vests.

In short, body armor saves lives. For 30 years, bullet-resistant body armor has protected law enforcement officers from ballistic and nonballistic incidents. As recorded by the IACP/DuPont Kevlar Survivors’ Club, more than 3,100 officers have survived potentially fatal or disabling injuries because they were wearing their body armor.

The bill before us today permanently reauthorizes this vitally important program. It will ensure our local heroes are protected from those who try to do them harm.

When a law enforcement officer leaves home in the morning, there is no guarantee he or she will return home safely that evening. This program makes it more likely, though, that these heroes will see their families again.

That is why I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 2379. As the son of a Georgia State trooper, I know what that means.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the brave

men and women who place their lives on the line to protect our communities. They deserve every ounce of support from their government.

I introduced H.R. 2379 to permanently authorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program at \$30 million every year. Our bill will help struggling law enforcement agencies maintain the necessary lifesaving bulletproof vests for each of their officers.

Making this important grant program permanent is one of the most sensible policies Congress can pursue. According to the Government Accountability Office, more than 3,000 law enforcement lives have been saved by armored vests since 1987.

But vests are costly, and they wear out. Thankfully, this Federal program has ensured our Nation's police officers are equipped with the latest technology to keep them safe.

For the last two decades, the program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$467 million in matching Federal funds to help purchase more than 1.3 million vests.

Mr. Speaker, we know that having well-staffed, well-trained, and properly equipped public safety departments is critical to ensuring our communities are safe. The importance of sustained Federal funding on this front cannot be overstated.

I am proud the House of Representatives is considering this legislation during National Police Week, as was just mentioned. We mourned the loss of 158 law enforcement officers in 2018 who died in the line of duty, three of whom served in New Jersey. At 53, this was the deadliest year for law enforcement officers being shot.

Ensuring more vests are in the field, which can help reduce the statistics, is our goal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the three officers from New Jersey who died while serving in the line of duty.

First was my friend from New Jersey, Tamby Yagan of the Paterson Police Department. With 13 years of service in his hometown, Officer Yagan died in an automobile crash while on duty on April 22, 2018.

Lieutenant Christopher Robateau from Jersey City passed on January 5, 2018, after being struck by a vehicle.

New Jersey State Police Trooper Robert Emmet Nagle passed on November 26, 2018, because of 9/11-related illness.

Mr. Speaker, I grieve for their families, as do you, and their loved ones. I know this House does, too.

Our Nation's local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers constitute both the first and last lines of protection for the American people. These officers deserve our support, and I am committed to ensuring that they have the resources needed to protect the public's safety.

Congress has renewed the program five times, most recently in 2016. The current authorization expires next year.

I especially thank Congressman PETER KING from New York, who is always there on the firing line for our police officers. On every bill, on every piece of legislation, he is there.

I also thank LINDSEY GRAHAM from South Carolina and, of course, the bill's namesake, PATRICK LEAHY.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New Jersey an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, this bill has strong support from several law enforcement groups, including the National Sheriffs' Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Sergeants Benevolent Association, and the Major County Sheriffs' Association.

I thank Chairman NADLER for allowing our bill to be released.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in strongly supporting H.R. 2379.

□ 1545

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

I do appreciate this time. This is a special week for me personally because it is recognizing something that I grew up with. It recognizes something that I am that I can't get a part of who I am. And I appreciate Mr. PASCARELL, my friend from New Jersey, talking about this and what that actually means.

But for what I will just term as a trooper's kid, this week means a lot. And it would mean even more when we come here if really, we had had more to do this week. I say that with respect, and I say that with love, because this is a good bill, and I urge everyone to support it, and I want to.

But just this past week, in Georgia, just as was recommended and said in New Jersey, just in the past few days in Savannah, Georgia, we lost another officer, Sergeant Kelvin Ansari, in an incident. He went to work and did not come home.

For the past few years, I have been in this body, and we have worked during Police Week, even beforehand, to bring up bills and to bring up issues that involve our law enforcement community because I recognize, and I know others in this body do as well, that on those mornings when they get up to go to work, the ladies and gentlemen who serve us in our law enforcement community, all of us, they are giving a gift of life to go serve others.

And on many days, unfortunately, the headlines will show to us that they don't return home; some through violence; some through activity; some, as we have seen this past year in this country, ambushed in front of their own police departments; cruelly murdered by those anarchists in this country who believe that the police are the enemy; and sometimes, fed by others

who want a different version of what upholding the law means. And that is sad.

My heart breaks, because when those officers don't come home, there is a space left at the table. There is a void left in the hearts of families and communities.

One of my earliest remembrances of my dad as a trooper, and one of the biggest things that made an impression on me, was years ago there was a trooper who had made a stop on 129 South out of Gainesville, Georgia, T.C. Dillard. As he made that stop, a young man who was not in his right mind through drugs, came over a hill and hit him.

I remember hearing about it. I was young at the time, and I remember him being taken to the hospital. And I can remember my dad and other officers all going to the hospital, and they were giving blood and doing whatever they could. It was one of the first times I remember of my earliest remembrances of watching my dad cry.

To a scrawny kid from north Georgia, who had a dad, and has a dad who is 6 feet 2 inches, 250 pounds, carried a .357 on his hip, and wore the badge of the Georgia State Patrol, he was and is my hero. To see him cry was something I had not experienced. To watch him love another officer and do anything for that officer is something that has impacted me today.

As we move forward, and we look at the things today, I guess my only thing—and I wanted to spend just a few more moments on this, because this is our only chance. This is the only bill that we have dealing with Law Enforcement Week this week.

I know that we are busy in the Judiciary Committee. I know that we have got a lot of other things going on. I know that we have so many things that we need to investigate, and I get that.

I am not—for once, I am just honestly speaking as much as a Congressman as I am as a trooper's kid.

Thirty thousand officers will be coming to Washington, D.C. over the next few days to honor those who have fallen, and to remember this week. And this bill, which is a good bill, is it. It is all we are offering. It is all we are discussing.

In years past, in 2018, we had six bills, including one rule bill. In 2017, nine bills, including two rule bills. 2016, eight bills, including two rule bills. Protect and Serve, Thin Blue Line, Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017, the Comprehensive Opioid and Abuse Act, which gave our officers training in how they can actually help in an opioid crisis.

I understand that we have a lot going on, but in our committee right now we have H.R. 816, which would ensure certain law enforcement officers on college campuses and their families are eligible for death and disability benefits under the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program.

H.R. 816 is named in honor of Sean Collier, a police officer at MIT who was

murdered by one of the Tsarnaev brothers after the attack at the Boston Marathon. This is to make sure their family has security.

Another bill from my committee colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCENTIALER), is his aim to prevent law enforcement suicides. Other bills that we have pending for law enforcement by helping them provide resources to combat opioid crisis or curb sex trafficking. In years past, we have considered numerous bills, not all of them, in fact, most of them non-controversial. But we didn't seem to have time to mark them up this year or to bring them forward.

I understand, and I am trying my best to just bring an honest concern, because when you look at these officers—and I used to ride with them; as I got older and I went to seminary and I was a chaplain for the Gainesville Police Department—it never leaves you.

As I came here today, and I appreciate my friend from Georgia, we have shared so many things together, we have done this, and Mr. PASCRELL and others who have talked about this.

But this is it. This is our only chance to actually say to these people—instead of just saying we appreciate you; we love you; and we are glad that you do what you do and offer them help in the things that they do, we offer them bulletproof vests, which is good; but it is all we are offering right now.

And I want to make sure, on this floor, for those kids whose dads and moms didn't come home this past year, just a reminder that it is not about what we say to those officers, it is also what we do.

I live each day, as best as I possibly can, to do as best as I possibly can for the ones who have given me so much; my mom, who I lost last June, my dad, who I still have, who taught me how to grow up; how to love; how to care; taught me to serve my country in the military and to serve my country here.

But when I come to a discussion today, and I heard my friend from New Jersey so eloquently discuss those who lost their lives in New Jersey and here in Savannah, the one thing that gets me up every morning, and if I have had a bad day, or if I am thinking about it, and when I hear all the discussion in this country about officers who are bad, or officers who are not doing it right, and officers—I understand the discussion that we need to have in our communities, and how we need to come together as communities to help each other and to lift each other up, from the poorest communities to the richest; the police are there to take the law. And if there are bad ones, they need to be got out. But they are 99.99 percent good, who honestly just want to do a good job, and we need to honor that.

But when we talk about bulletproof vests, when we talk about other issues of how we care for officers, just remember those this week, especially those who didn't come home because, Mr.

Speaker, except by the grace of God, I would have not known my father, because on a traffic stop, when I was still a small child, he walked up to a car. He caught a glint of a gun laying on the shoulder of the driver. He, fortunately, was able to pull his gun, and they stood there for many minutes in a standoff until the gentleman threw the gun out of the car window. That incident almost deprived me of knowing my hero.

When we talk about police, when we talk about law enforcement and the other first responders on all sides, but the police we are talking about today, I just humbly believe that there is more that we can do, and I look forward to working with our committee to do more throughout this year.

But on this week, it is worth pointing out that these folks stand in the line, many of them not sleeping while we sleep, and they are worth protecting, and they are worth more, frankly, than this one bill; and I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to make sure that we see more come across this floor.

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

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

This could not be a more solemn moment than what my friend from Georgia just expressed to the Nation about our State and local law enforcement personnel, male, female, Black, White, Latino, Asian, this legislation is an effort to protect them.

And I will note that there have not been just one, but actually three deaths of law enforcement officers already this year in the State of Georgia. The numbers are up. It is very concerning, and this is something that we can do to help protect the lives of our law enforcement officers.

I know that my friend from Georgia, Representative COLLINS, has a long and storied history of support for State and local law enforcement, and I stand with him in his concern, and I stand with him in his support for this very important legislation that my friend, BILL PASCRELL, has introduced.

I will note that a lot of little boys and girls who first go into law enforcement, they go into local and State law enforcement, and then they are able to attain their ultimate dream, which is to become an FBI agent.

FBI agents are Federal law enforcement agents. They are sworn to protect and serve; they wear a gun, and they wake up every morning not knowing what they will face during that day. Some have given their lives in the ultimate sacrifice for this Nation.

So, in addition to our State and local law enforcement agents, we, today, uphold our Federal law enforcement agents who work for the various Federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, with its storied history of integrity.

So, it is not about what we say; it is about what we do. It is about what we

say also, because what we say has an impact on those who serve us. And we cannot, because of one or two outliers, indict the entire State or local law enforcement agency for the imperfections of the few; nor can we do so with our Federal law enforcement agencies, particularly our premier Federal law enforcement agency, the FBI.

I support the FBI. I support our State and local law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY).

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2379, which will permanently reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

I want to particularly thank Mr. PASCRELL, as well as Mr. KING, for taking the lead on this very important legislation.

In 1997, I co-authored the original legislation to create the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program with the gentleman who originated the idea for this legislation, and who was the original cosponsor, our good friend, former colleague, Representative Frank LoBiondo, from the State of New Jersey; he had been active over the last 22 years in having the act reauthorized, which is why I strongly support this bill to add permanence to it.

As has been mentioned during the debate, there have been over 13,000 jurisdictions who have been helped. I represent the First Congressional District in Indiana, and in Fiscal Year 2018 the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program provided \$80,738 to local law enforcement in Northwest Indiana. This assisted in the purchase of about 200 new vests for officers who are protecting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to reiterate my strong support for this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

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

I am almost at the end, but as I was finishing up—and I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia's words, and I agree that we can—but I would be remiss if I didn't share what I just got in my inbox. I just got this in my inbox.

It is a letter signed by my chairman of my committee and four other members of our committee on Police Week. After I just talked about how we can do more, this is what we are doing more.

“As you know, the House Judiciary Committee exercises legislative and oversight jurisdiction in the areas of civil rights and criminal law enforcement. These areas continue to be subjects of intense national concern in the wake of high-profile incidents involving the fatal use of force by law enforcement against unarmed people in cities such as Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, Falcon Heights, Tulsa, Pittsburgh, and Dallas. In 2018, 992 people were shot and killed by police. In the first 2 months of this year, at least 265 people have suffered the same fate.”

Mr. Speaker, I include the May 14, 2019, letter in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2019.

Hon. WILLIAM P. BARR,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: As you know, the House Judiciary Committee exercises legislative and oversight jurisdiction in areas of civil rights and criminal law enforcement. These areas continue to be subjects of intense national concern in the wake of high-profile incidents involving the fatal use of force by law enforcement against unarmed people in cities such as Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, Falcon Heights, Tulsa, Pittsburgh, and Dallas. In 2018, 992 people were shot and killed by police. “In the first two months of this year, at least 265 people have suffered the same fate.”

Despite continuing concerns from civil rights and community-based organizations, the Department has sharply curtailed its statutory role in identifying and eradicating civil rights abuses by law enforcement. Excessive force in police-civilian encounters presents a crisis of trust throughout our nation. Changes to Department policy and failure to uphold the law run the risk of undermining federal oversight authority in this space.

Congress identified the need for the Department and community stakeholders to play a role in eliminating unjust and discriminatory practices by law enforcement. With that goal in mind, Congress has provided the Department with the authority to identify and eliminate patterns and practices of unconstitutional conduct in law enforcement agencies through civil action and administrative authority. Additionally, it provided the Department the ability to encourage communities to have a voice in how they are policed through programs offered by the Community Oriented Policing Services or “COPS Office.” These tools must be used to promote Constitutional policing practices that support public safety and respect civil rights and civil liberties.

Accordingly, we write to request information related to the manner in which the Department of Justice is currently carrying out its statutory responsibilities to eliminate patterns and practices of unconstitutional conduct in law enforcement agencies. We respectfully request you provide complete responses and produce the relevant documents and communications listed below by no later than June 5, 2019:

1. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017, relating to Attorney General Sessions’s March 31, 2017 Memorandum, “Supporting Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement.” This should include any prior drafts of the memorandum. Please include a list identifying all individuals involved in the decision to conduct the review of “existing or contemplated consent decrees.”

2. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2017 to November 7, 2018, relating to Attorney General Sessions’s November 7, 2018 Memorandum “Principles and Procedures for Civil Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements with State and Local Government Entities.” This should include any prior drafts of the memorandum. Please include a list identifying all individuals involved in the decision to identify issues arising from the Department’s “civil action[s] against a state or local government . . . by consent decree or settlement agreement.”

3. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2017 to November 21, 2018,

from or to the Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio and Deputy Associate Attorney General Stephen Cox concerning the Department’s recession or withdrawal of policies, procedures, and guidance issued by the Civil Rights Division, the Office of Justice Programs, the COPS Office, and the Office of Violence Against Women.

4. Please provide copies of any standards or guidelines, by which the Department identifies potential patterns or practices of conduct by law enforcement agencies that deprive persons of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

5. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2017 to the date of this letter, identifying any Department-negotiated consent decree, authorized under 34 U.S.C. Section 12601 (b), that has “deprived the elected representatives of the people of any affected jurisdiction of control over their government.”

6. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2017 to the date of this letter, identifying any Department-negotiated consent decree, authorized under 34 U.S.C. Section 12601 (b), that has subjected a law enforcement agency to ongoing court oversight after the Department determined that the purpose of the consent decree had been achieved.

7. Documents and Communications dated from January 1, 2017 to the date of this letter, from non-government organizations relating to the Department’s review of existing or proposed consent decrees or reform agreements pursuant to the Attorney General’s March 31, 2017 Memorandum.

8. Documents and communications dated from November 7, 2018 to the date of this letter, relating to updating standards or guidelines used to identify patterns and practices of discriminations by state or local law enforcement agencies. This response should include how complaints against recipients of federal financial assistance from the Office of Justice Programs, other grant making agencies, and participants in the Asset Forfeiture Program are centrally accounted for or tabulated and considered in opening investigations into alleged discriminatory patterns and practices by law enforcement agency.

9. Copies of standards or guidelines in force as of January 1, 2017, that the Department uses to determine whether the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of 34 U.S.C. Section 12601(a) has occurred.

10. Documents and communications dated from November 7, 2018 to the date of this letter, relating to updating guidelines or standards used to determine whether the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of 34 U.S.C. Section 12601(a) has occurred.

11. Copies of any evidence-based study, analysis, or report supporting the decision to adopt the general statement of principles as memorialized in the Attorney General’s November 7, 2018 Memorandum.

12. Documents and communications dated from January 1, 2018 to the date of this letter, relating to proposed changes to the existing memorandums of understanding or agreement, resolution agreements, or consent decrees, including but not limited to the matters open in Baltimore, Chicago, and Ferguson.

13. Total number of preliminary inquiries and investigations of law enforcement agencies opened, initiated, or given a case or other tracking number by the Civil Rights Division or civil rights matters opened by the Office of Justice Programs after January 1, 2017. Please include a list identifying each law enforcement agency subject to a prelimi-

nary investigation or inquiry after January 1, 2017, and a brief description of the basis for the preliminary investigation or inquiry.

14. Total number of preliminary inquiries or investigations of law enforcement agencies closed after March 31, 2017. Please include a list identifying the date each case was closed, the identity of the law enforcement agency subject of the preliminary inquiry or investigation, and a brief description of the basis for closing the preliminary investigation or inquiry.

15. Total number of complaints, referrals, or multi-party complaints received by the Department after January 1, 2017, from a federal, state, or local public official relating to potential pattern or practice violations by a law enforcement agency. Please provide brief descriptions of each referral or complaint.

16. Documents and communications dated from February 9, 2017 to the date of this letter, relating to modifications of existing agreements for technical assistance with law enforcement agencies, COPS Office proposed budget, or changes to existing Department guidelines or standards relating to the administration of the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance.

17. Total number of requests, including any memorandums or communications dated after January 1, 2017 to the date of this letter, to open investigations of law enforcement agency officers or agencies from the Special Litigation Section to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under section 12601.

18. Documents or Communications dated from January 1, 2017 to the date of this letter, related to the review and decision to retreat from the agreement in principle with the Chicago Police Department and Chicago, including any review or analysis of the findings by the AG and his office of evidence of constitutional violations presented in the findings letter dated January 3, 2017.

19. An account of open investigations alleging an unlawful pattern and practice or disparate impact involving law enforcement agencies and explanation of what steps the Department has taken to withdraw federal funding of law enforcement agencies that are subject to the grant conditions pursuant to Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. In your response, please address the Department’s investigations of the Springfield, Massachusetts Police Department, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and the Orange County District Attorney’s Office and Sheriffs Department.

Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter. We look forward to working more closely with your office in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary.

KAREN BASS,
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, House Committee on the Judiciary.

MARY GAY SCANLON,
Vice Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary.

STEVE COHEN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, House Committee on the Judiciary.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Member of Congress.

□ 1600

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Are you kidding me? We couldn't wait a week?

Look, vote for this bill. This bill is a good bill. But this shows the dedication of the majority to Police Week right here. It is about what my chairman of the committee did. It is about what we say and what we do. This is what we did.

On the first part of Police Week, we sent to the Attorney General a discussion about people who are shot by police, many of which in no context here of how the accidents occurred or how it occurred or what was actually happening; it is just that we need to go investigate, a 4-, 5-page letter.

Vote for the bill. The bill is a good bill.

This letter is embarrassing.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining for both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I will come back to the issue. This bulletproof vest bill is a great bill. It needs to be permanent. In fact, if we can do better, it would be great. We need to do more.

I made my point about this letter, and, unfortunately, this is a stain on Police Week, and hopefully we can do better, and I know we will.

I trust my friend from Georgia. I trust my friend from New Jersey. We can do this, and we can do this better. I am sorry that this is the way it has had to start, but actions do speak louder than anything else, than words, like I said, and this is an action on Police Week that, frankly, is unbelievable.

Support this underlying bill. Support this bill for bulletproof vests. Support our officers not just with words, but with actions as well, and I know the Members here on this floor are doing that. It is just a shame that this had to come out with that.

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

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

The top law enforcement individual in the country is the Attorney General, and our Attorney General has declared war on the FBI by ordering a third investigation into the origins of the Mueller investigation. This is nothing more than an attack on our own premier law enforcement agency. It is politics reduced to its lowest level at the same time as Police Week is occurring.

What does it say to those down the line, to those aspiring boys and girls who aspire to be FBI agents?

What does it say to the men and women who are currently in law enforcement and looking to move into Federal law enforcement?

Well, it doesn't tell them to not aspire to that height. I think most look beyond the politics of the day, and when they consider the legislation that is at hand, they support it without regard to political persuasion. They support the fact that H.R. 2379, introduced by my friend BILL PASCRELL, is a testament to the important role that Congress plays in promoting officer safety today and for decades to come.

In passing this bill during Police Week, we acknowledge the many contributions that law enforcement officers make to public safety, and we thank them for their service. We also recognize that there are challenges within law enforcement that we must weed out and that are an affront to the ideals that law enforcement officers are taught to adhere to, and we must do that, as well.

But today it is not about that. Today it is about bulletproof vests for our law enforcement officers on the State and local level. We will make sure that our Federal officers are always protected, but today it is about State and local law enforcement agents and agencies, particularly those that cannot afford to purchase these bulletproof vests or to keep current in terms of these vests when they wear out.

They do wear out, and they have to be replaced, and they have to have money to do that. This bill will enable \$30 million per year to be permanently authorized. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2379, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. 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.

FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1594) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1594

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act".

SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "If an applicant" and inserting the following:

"(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—If an applicant"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(2) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications that, in accordance with paragraph (1), contain explanations to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards developed under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 747).

"(3) FACTORS.—In carrying out the review process under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall consider the following:

"(A) Current or past use of proposed equipment or systems by Federal agencies or the Armed Forces.

"(B) The absence of a national voluntary consensus standard for such equipment or systems.

"(C) The existence of an international consensus standard for such equipment or systems, and whether such equipment or systems meets such standard.

"(D) The nature of the capability gap identified by the applicant and how such equipment or systems will address such gap.

"(E) The degree to which such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed existing consensus standards.

"(F) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Administrator."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems not included on the Authorized Equipment List maintained by the Administrator."

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report assessing the implementation of the review process established under paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), including information on the following:

(1) The number of requests to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable consensus standard evaluated under such review process.

(2) The capability gaps identified by applicants and the number of such requests granted or denied.

(3) The processing time for the review of such requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1594, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

Our Nation's first responders put their lives on the line to ensure all of us are safe. These brave women and men should have access to the equipment they need to protect lives and property around the country.

One of the Department of Homeland Security's most important missions is to help ensure the effectiveness of our Nation's emergency services sector. Key avenues for such support are the Department's counterterrorism grant programs: the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Unfortunately, the grant guidance for these grant programs sometimes hinders first responders' ability to acquire innovative counterterrorism equipment. Today, each piece of equipment must meet or exceed national voluntary consensus standards.

Although FEMA will review requests to purchase equipment that does not meet consensus standards, the Committee on Homeland Security has learned from stakeholders that the process lacks uniformity, predictability, and transparency. The process for developing voluntary consensus standards for first responder equipment has not kept pace with the evolution of technology or the demands of first responders.

H.R. 1594 would direct FEMA to implement a standard process for reviewing applications to purchase equipment that do not meet consensus standards or for equipment not included on FEMA's authorized equipment list. H.R. 1594 seeks to ensure that the safety of our first responders remains a top priority.

As today's threats faced by first responders are constantly evolving, it is important that our technology evolve, too. Enactment of H.R. 1594 will help ensure first responders can do their job more safely and effectively.

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1594, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

With threats to our communities constantly evolving, it is reassuring to see the emergence of new technologies ready to meet the new challenges. However, emerging technology is frequently developed faster than voluntary consensus standards can be implemented.

Recipients of grants under FEMA's State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative must procure equipment that meets these standards. This can be problematic when first responders seek to use grant funds to acquire new and innovative technology that does not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standard.

Unfortunately, if a grant recipient would like to use grant funds to purchase such equipment, FEMA does not maintain a uniform process for reviewing these applications. H.R. 1594 requires FEMA to develop such a process for reviewing these requests.

This legislation also directs FEMA to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to purchase equipment not included on the authorized equipment list maintained by FEMA.

It is imperative that we listen to those in the emergency services sector and help enable them to acquire the tools that they need to save American lives and keep us safe. We must empower them to acquire the equipment they need for their jobs and provide them with a uniform process to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I support our first responders. These brave men and women run into danger as everyone else runs away from it. We owe it to them to create processes that make their jobs and their lives easier. They have our backs on our worst days. We should have their backs on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, by passing this bill today, we can ensure first responders have a reliable and uniform process for acquiring technologies and equipment that will keep them and our communities safe. The House unanimously passed previous versions of this bill in the prior two Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support me in passing this legislation today. As the gentleman from Pennsylvania said, they have our backs, we should have their backs.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1594.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1313) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1313

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act".

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 1406(b)(2) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135(b)(2)); Public Law 110-53) is amended by inserting "and associated backfill" after "security training".

SEC. 3. PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (l) the following new subsection:

"(m) PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subsection (b) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

"(2) EXCEPTION.—Funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subparagraph (M) or (N) of subsection (b)(1) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 55 months."

SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the public transportation security assistance grant program under section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53).

(b) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the type of projects funded under the public transportation security grant program referred to in such paragraph.

(2) An assessment of the manner in which such projects address threats to public transportation infrastructure.

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) on types of projects funded under the public transportation security assistance grant program.

(4) An assessment of the management and administration of public transportation security assistance grant program funds by grantees.

(5) Recommendations to improve the manner in which public transportation security

assistance grant program funds address vulnerabilities in public transportation infrastructure.

(6) Recommendations to improve the management and administration of the public transportation security assistance grant program.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and again not later than five years after such date of enactment, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review required under this section.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1313, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

Securing our Nation’s transit systems is critical to keeping our country safe. Transportation systems are vital to the economic and social lives of everyday people all around the country. The emergence of so-called “lone wolf” domestic terrorists pose a threat to these critical systems and the people that use them.

In response to this and other threats to our surface transportation systems, Congress established the Transportation Security Grant Program to help State and local authorities enhance the security of their systems. By all accounts, the Transportation Security Grant Program is making a difference.

However, increasingly, we have heard that some of the aspects of this program need refinement for it to live up to its full potential. Specifically, the Committee on Homeland Security has received testimony from grant recipients that the period of performance is too short, especially when they are trying to undertake long-term security projects.

H.R. 1313 addresses these concerns and makes the program more flexible

by lengthening the period of performance for these grants. With flexibility in mind, the bill also allows for the funding in this program to be used for backfilling officers to allow for security training.

Finally, it mandates a report by the Government Accountability Office on the Transportation Security Grant Program, including recommendations to improve the grant program. These commonsense fixes will increase the efficacy of the Transportation Security Grant Program to help bolster preparedness and response within our transportation systems.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1313, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

The Transit Security Grant Program directly supports transportation infrastructure security activities by providing funds to owners and operators of transit systems. Whether they be bus systems, ferries, or passenger rail, this grant program aims to protect and increase the resilience of critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism.

H.R. 1313 codifies the performance period for use of grant funds and allows additional time for large-scale capital security projects. This bill also allows grant recipients to use their awards to pay for the cost of backfilling personnel attending necessary security training.

This important legislation, introduced by my colleague on the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman PETE KING, will further assist in keeping our communities safe against the threat of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Pennsylvania closes.

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOYCE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 1313, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

The Transit Security Grant Program provides needed funds to transit agencies to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism. With billions of riders using surface transportation annually, and limited security screening, it should come as no surprise that surface transportation

has been, and continues to be, a terror target.

We have witnessed multiple attacks overseas: the bombings of commuter trains in Madrid, the metro station bombing in Brussels, the bombing of the tube in London.

In New York, we saw, in 2019, there was an attempted liquid explosive attack, which, if successful, would have killed many, many hundreds.

And then, soon after that, there was a planned attack against the Long Island Railroad, in my own district, carried out by Bryant Neal Vinas, who was then in Afghanistan plotting the attack.

And more recently and much closer to home, we witnessed the 2017 New York Port Authority bombing, which the Speaker is well aware of, involving our city.

With the continual calls from ISIS and other extremist groups for lone-wolf attacks to target crowded areas, we must ensure the first responders and transit agencies have the tools needed to secure our transit systems.

Based on previous work done by the subcommittee under the leadership of my good friend Congressman Dan Donovan, we learned of the challenges associated with the fluctuating period of performance for Transit Security Grant Program projects, especially for completing vital large-scale capital security projects.

The Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act addresses this challenge by codifying the period of performance for this grant program at 36 months for the majority of eligible projects. It also extends the period of performance for large-scale projects to 55 months. This ensures that these major projects can be successfully completed in the allotted time.

Transit security grant program awards can be used to provide personnel with essential security training. However, recipients of these awards are not currently permitted to use the grant program funds to pay for backfilling personnel attending such training, which may, in turn, inhibit some transit agencies from sending their staff to vital security training.

H.R. 1313 will permit Transit Security Grant Program funds to be used for this purpose, consistent with other homeland security grant programs.

Given the evolving threat landscape, it is imperative that the Transit Security Grant Program provide flexible solutions for grant recipients. It is of the utmost importance that transit agencies have the ability to enhance the protection of these soft targets and crowded places to keep everyday commuters safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my staff, particularly, Diana Bergwin, for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join in supporting H.R. 1313.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, the Transportation Security Grant Program is a meaningful tool to help communities improve the safety of our surface infrastructure, but, as discussed, there are areas where it could be improved. H.R. 1313 seeks to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KING for his bipartisan work on this legislation.

Before I yield back, I would like to note that this legislation is identical to a measure that the House approved last Congress by a voice vote on January 31, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1313, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1313, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1437) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1437

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2019” or the “Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) **LOST.**—The term “lost” includes loss by theft.

(3) **SENSITIVE ASSETS.**—The term “sensitive assets” means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and

(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.

(4) **UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.**—The term “Under Secretary for Management” means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF SECURING FIREARMS AND OTHER SENSITIVE ASSETS IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting “(including firearms and other sensitive assets)” after “equipment”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsection (f); and

(3) by amending such redesignated subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS.**—The term ‘interoperable communications’ has the meaning given such term in section 7303(g) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)).

“(2) **SENSITIVE ASSETS.**—The term ‘sensitive assets’ means any asset, regardless of value—

“(A) that the Department issues to a Department employee; and

“(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.”.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) **SAFEGUARDING FIREARMS AND SENSITIVE ASSETS DIRECTIVE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management shall develop and disseminate a Department-wide directive for achieving adequate security over firearms and other sensitive assets across the Department.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The directive required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Descriptions of what equipment, in addition to firearms, is classified as a sensitive asset for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(B) Requirements for securing Department-issued firearms and other sensitive assets.

(C) A classification system for all categories of Department-issued badges and corresponding requirements for safeguarding such assets.

(D) Reporting requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets, including timelines for such reporting, to supervisors, local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters.

(E) Recordkeeping requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets in inventory systems, including a timeline for recording such losses.

(3) **REVIEW AND UPDATE OF DIRECTIVE.**—Not later than one year after the issuance of the directive required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall review and update, as necessary, such directive, including adding a requirement relating to recording in the inventory systems maintained by each component of the Department the acceptance or transfer of a firearm or other sensitive asset by such component.

(b) **PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANUAL.**—Together with the issuance of the directive pursuant to subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall disseminate a revised version of the Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual that includes the following:

(1) Requirements for component heads to develop procedures to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets during on and off-duty time.

(2) Requirements for the issuance of safety locking devices and policies on the use of such assets, as applicable.

(3) Requirements for initial, recurrent, and remedial training on safeguarding such assets.

(4) Examples, with detail, of how to report and record lost sensitive assets across components of the Department, and an enforcement mechanism to ensure supervisors maintain such records.

(5) A requirement that the file maintained on a lost firearm or other sensitive asset contains both the corresponding police report and the Department report detailing the circumstances surrounding such loss, including information on adherence to safeguarding procedures.

SEC. 5. COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Department component heads shall—

(1) comply with Federal law, Federal regulations, executive branch guidance, and Department policy, including directives required by this Act, relating to the management and oversight of securing firearms and other sensitive assets;

(2) review the need for non-law enforcement badges;

(3) require component personnel to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets in accordance with the directive issued by the Under Secretary for Management under section 4;

(4) require that component personnel adhere to the procedures and timelines for properly reporting to supervisors lost firearms and other sensitive assets;

(5) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are reported to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters in the timeframe established in such directive; and

(6) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are recorded in inventory systems in the timeframe established by such directive.

SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall, on an ongoing basis, review implementation of this Act and, not later than 180 days after issuance of the directive under section 4, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a review of the progress and effectiveness of such directive, including an assessment of the adequacy of such directive, as well as the level of compliance among the components of the Department to achieve adequate security of sensitive assets across Department components.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1437, the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, authored by Mr. CORREA of California, would require the Department of Homeland Security to take action to safeguard sensitive assets, such as firearms, badges, and immigration stamps.

According to the DHS Office of Inspector General, during a 3-year period between fiscal years 2014 and 2016, the Department lost track of more than 2,000 highly sensitive assets. Failing to safeguard these assets puts the public at risk.

This legislation, if enacted, would require the DHS under secretary for management to issue a department-wide directive for securing firearms, immigration stamps, badges, and other sensitive assets with reporting requirements for any assets that are lost or stolen.

It is a commonsense measure the House passed by voice vote a little over 1 year ago.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this Chamber to again support this legislation and help safeguard the Department's most sensitive assets.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1437, the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019. This bill makes some much-needed improvements to address the security of firearms at the Department of Homeland Security.

A DHS Office of Inspector General report from October of 2017 found that the DHS and component personnel misplaced over 2,100 highly sensitive assets, including 228 firearms, and 1,889 badges between the fiscal years of 2014 and 2016.

The statistics from the OIG report and the lack of accountability for DHS personnel that fail to safeguard sensitive assets is startling. DHS performs a critical national security mission. It is unacceptable that DHS has deficiencies in the training personnel receive on how to properly safeguard and track sensitive assets like firearms.

H.R. 1437 follows the recommendations made by the OIG in its report and requires the under secretary of management at DHS to issue a directive to ensure the Department and its components adequately safeguard sensitive assets.

H.R. 1437 also mandates DHS to revise its Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual to require recurrent training and appropriate procedures to secure assets in accordance with the DHS directive.

The Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019 puts into place important steps to ensure that DHS is appropriately safeguarding sensitive assets while conducting its critical mission. This much-needed bill is identical to legislation passed in the 115th Congress by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative CORREA for introducing this legis-

lation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

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

□ 1630

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security has grown into the Nation's largest Federal law enforcement agency. More than 60,000 law enforcement officers within DHS are entrusted with securing our country as well as maintaining and safeguarding sensitive law enforcement equipment, such as firearms, ammunition, and badges.

In 2010, DHS' Office of Inspector General reported 289 firearms issued to DHS officers were lost between 2006 and 2008. By 2017, when the inspector general did a follow-up review, it found that 228 firearms, 1,900 badges, and 2,100 sensitive assets were either lost or stolen between 2014 and 2016.

Just last winter, ICE realized that it had more ammunition than it was tracking. CNN reported on 70 cases where Federal air marshals lost or misplaced their weapons, including leaving firearms in airport bathrooms.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, a constituent from my home State of California, Antonio Ramos, 27 years old, was fatally shot with a 9-millimeter pistol stolen from a DHS officer. This is tragic and unacceptable, and we can do better.

The inspector general identified the absence of a Department-wide directive or policy of securing sensitive assets as a major reason for the Department's mismanagement of firearms and other equipment. Insufficient tracking and recording mechanisms and poor oversight were also factors identified.

This bill, Securing DHS Firearms Act, seeks to fix these issues by ensuring the Department has effective controls over firearms and other sensitive assets. Additionally, it requires DHS to develop reporting and record-keeping requirements for lost firearms and other assets that law enforcement personnel can adhere to.

Enactment of the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019 is necessary to ensure that the highly sensitive assets that help DHS officers protect our country don't fall into the wrong hands.

I first introduced this bill in the 115th Congress where it received bipartisan support and passed this House unanimously on January 9, 2018. I urge my colleagues to once again pass this commonsense legislation.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, a robust and standardized policy on safeguarding DHS assets and

other law enforcement equipment is not just an administrative matter. It is a matter of public safety and homeland security.

Additionally, clear requirements on the reporting of lost equipment are just as important. Official badges, immigration stamps, firearms, and other sensitive assets are issued by the Department to properly equip the front-line personnel of DHS who defend our homeland security every day. We must ensure that such equipment is well-protected and maintained and not accessible to bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1437, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1437.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1912) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1912

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 711. ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For each major acquisition program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, shall require the head of a relevant component or office to—

"(1) maintain acquisition documentation that is complete, accurate, timely, and valid, and that includes, at a minimum—

"(A) operational requirements that are validated consistent with departmental policy and changes to such requirements, as appropriate;

"(B) a complete lifecycle cost estimate with supporting documentation;

"(C) verification of such lifecycle cost estimate against independent cost estimates, and reconciliation of any differences;

"(D) a cost-benefit analysis with supporting documentation; and

"(E) a schedule, including, as appropriate, an integrated master schedule;

"(2) prepare cost estimates and schedules for major acquisition programs, as required

under subparagraphs (B) and (E), in a manner consistent with best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States; and

“(3) submit certain acquisition documentation to the Secretary to produce for submission to Congress an annual comprehensive report on the status of departmental acquisitions.

“(b) WAIVER.—On a case-by-case basis with respect to any major acquisition program under this section, the Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) for a fiscal year if either—

“(1) such program has not—

“(A) entered the full rate production phase in the acquisition lifecycle;

“(B) had a reasonable cost estimate established; and

“(C) had a system configuration defined fully; or

“(2) such program does not meet the definition of capital asset, as such term is defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—At the same time the President’s budget is submitted for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall make information available, as applicable, to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the requirement described in subsection (a) in the prior fiscal year that includes the following specific information regarding each major acquisition program for which the Secretary has issued a waiver under subsection (b):

“(1) The grounds for granting a waiver for such program.

“(2) The projected cost of such program.

“(3) The proportion of a component’s or office’s annual acquisition budget attributed to such program, as available.

“(4) Information on the significance of such program with respect to the component’s or office’s operations and execution of its mission.

“(d) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2019 constant dollars) over its lifecycle cost.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item related to section 707 the following new item:

“Sec. 711. Acquisition documentation.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this matter.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1912, a measure I introduced with the support of Congressman DAN CRENSHAW to ensure the Department of Homeland Security effectively manages its largest acquisitions, those with an estimated lifecycle cost of \$300 million or more.

Each year, DHS invests billions of dollars in its acquisition programs to help execute its many critical missions. However, since the Department was created, DHS has struggled to keep some of its largest programs on schedule and on budget.

For example, the Department’s attempts to modernize and integrate its various financial management systems has been in the works for 15 years with little to show for its multimillion expenditures.

A plan to deliver a DHS-wide human resources IT system has faced similar delays, as has a decade-long attempt to consolidate the Department’s headquarters at the St. Elizabeths campus in southeast Washington, D.C.

The Department’s acquisition management challenges have been on the Government Accountability Office’s high-risk list since 2005. GAO has identified shortfalls, including acquisition programs lacking key analyses and schedules.

H.R. 1912, the DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019, would attempt to address some of these concerns by requiring DHS to maintain complete, accurate, timely, and valid documentation for all its major acquisitions. This includes documentation such as lifecycle cost estimates, cost-benefit analyses, and project schedules. Codifying these acquisition documentation requirements, which are already embodied in DHS acquisition policy, is necessary to safeguard against future cost overruns and schedule delays.

A previous version of this bill passed the House unanimously in the 115th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to pass it again today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1912, the DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019. This legislation requires the Department of Homeland Security to better document its major acquisition programs that are essential to keeping America safe.

While every Member of Congress will agree that protecting our Nation and its citizens is vitally important, we must also agree that protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring accountability for the government agencies is also essential.

The Government Accountability Office assists Congress in its efforts to ensure accountability by producing a report every 2 years that identifies areas in the Federal Government that are at high risk of waste, fraud, and

abuse. Major acquisitions by DHS have consistently been identified by the GAO as high risk.

This legislation requires DHS to improve management of its major purchases of systems to secure the border, provide screening for travelers, and protect our shores, and for our other vital missions.

Too often, DHS has failed to document what these programs will cost, when they will be completed, and what they will deliver. It is unacceptable to spend billions of taxpayer dollars and not document this important information.

To address these issues, DHS has updated its acquisition policy to follow corporate best practices. However, it must take additional steps to ensure its components adhere to these policies.

H.R. 1912 provides important tools to ensure that these policies are being followed. It will improve visibility into DHS major acquisition programs and promote better management of DHS acquisitions of items that are expected to cost more than \$300 million.

Under the bill, the Undersecretary for Management must require the relevant component or office to maintain documentation that provides validated operational requirements, a complete lifecycle cost estimate, an independent verification of that cost estimate, a cost-benefit analysis of the program, and a complete schedule for the acquisition program.

With this documentation, Congress and other government watchdogs will be able to conduct necessary oversight to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

This bill passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in both the 114th and 115th Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative TORRES SMALL for reintroducing this language, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough for the Department of Homeland Security to simply analyze the upfront costs of acquiring systems to fulfill capability gaps. DHS must also budget for the long-term operation and maintenance costs of a system.

Given the criticality and budgetary risks associated with major acquisitions, it is critical that requirements are created, alternatives are considered, a cost estimate is completed, and a schedule is developed.

It falls to us, the Congress, to ensure that the Department has reliable acquisition documentation in place. Enactment of H.R. 1912 will ensure that DHS does its homework and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico

(Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1912.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1892) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1892

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) representatives from appropriate advisory committees established pursuant to section 871, including the Homeland Security Advisory Council and the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee, or otherwise established, including the Aviation Security Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49, United States Code; and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “based on the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B)”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “describe”; and

(ii) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “identify”;

(ii) by striking “budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully” and inserting “resources required to”; and

(iii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “, including any resources identified from redundant, wasteful, or unnecessary capabilities or capacities that may be redirected to better support other existing capabilities or capacities, as the case may be; and”;

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(E) by striking paragraph (6);

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “December 31 of the year” and inserting “60 days

after the date of the submission of the President’s budget for the fiscal year after the fiscal year”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “description of the threats to” and inserting “risk assessment of”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, as required under subsection (b)(2)” before the semicolon at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a description”; and

(II) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”; and

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(v) in subparagraph (G)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”;

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(III) by inserting “and risks” before “to national homeland”; and

(IV) by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(vi) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(vii) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall retain and, upon request, provide to Congress the following documentation regarding each quadrennial homeland security review:

“(A) Records regarding the consultation carried out pursuant to subsection (a)(3), including the following:

“(i) All written communications, including communications sent out by the Secretary and feedback submitted to the Secretary through technology, online communications tools, in-person discussions, and the inter-agency process.

“(ii) Information on how feedback received by the Secretary informed each such quadrennial homeland security review.

“(B) Information regarding the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), including the following:

“(i) The risk model utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(ii) Information, including data used in the risk model, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iii) Sources of information, including other risk assessments, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iv) Information on assumptions, weighing factors, and subjective judgments utilized to generate such risk assessment, together with information on the rationale or basis thereof.”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of each report required under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on the degree to which the findings and recommendations developed in the quadrennial homeland security review that is the subject of such report were integrated into the acquisition strategy and expenditure plans for the Department.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to a quadrennial homeland security review conducted after December 31, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1829, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act. This bill, authored by Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN of New Jersey, will ensure that the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, is a driving vision for the Department of Homeland Security.

Given the importance of DHS’ mission, it is vital that the Department continually review its policy positions so that they, with Congress’ help, can continue to stay ahead of the constantly changing threats facing our country.

By enacting this legislation, Congress can see that DHS carries out its long-overdue third QHSR and stays focused on the mission.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1892, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2019.

□ 1645

In the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Congress required the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a security review every 4 years. As the threats to the United States change and evolve, it is more important than ever for DHS to produce a robust strategy to protect the American public.

The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, is intended to outline DHS’ strategic outlook in its plan to successfully carry out its mission to protect our homeland. Thus far, DHS has produced two QHSRs since the requirement was established: one in 2010 and its most recent one in 2014. We are currently awaiting the release of the 2018 QHSR, which is quite a bit behind schedule.

The Government Accountability Office has reviewed both reports and made recommendations on how DHS could improve its efforts for future quadrennial reviews. In its 2016 review of the most recent QHSR, the GAO

made several recommendations to strengthen the QHSR process, which are the basis of this legislation.

H.R. 1892 requires DHS to perform a risk assessment to shape the direction and the focus of QHSR. Second, the Department would be required to collect and maintain communications related to the QHSR to allow for better congressional oversight. Finally, DHS would be required to enhance its stakeholder engagement throughout the development of QHSR.

The result of these changes would be a more robust strategy that provides a roadmap for DHS to address future threats as they emerge and allows Congress to better execute its oversight responsibilities.

This language passed the House with wide support last Congress but, unfortunately, was not taken up by the Senate.

I continue to believe that this is an important piece of legislation, and I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for reintroducing it.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

The Department of Homeland Security's mission is complex and diverse. Not only is DHS charged with preventing terrorism, but it is the lead Federal agency for emergency management, cybersecurity, and border, maritime, and transportation security.

Given the breadth of DHS' responsibilities, it is essential that its limited resources be aligned with its missions to meet the ever-challenging threat landscape. As such, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, which DHS is mandated to carry out every 4 years, is critical to ensuring that the Department is positioned to effectively carry out its multifaceted mission.

To date, DHS has issued two such reviews, as we have heard. Unfortunately, the Department's third is 16 months overdue. This legislation seeks to make refinements to the law to address weaknesses identified by the Government Accountability Office in the prior two reviews.

GAO, for example, emphasized that documentation of the review process is essential to ensuring the repeatability of the review process. Accordingly, H.R. 1892 requires that DHS retain and, when requested, provide to Congress certain documentation related to the QHSR.

H.R. 1892 also seeks to ensure more robust consultation with Homeland Security stakeholders, including State and local governments and academic institutions. H.R. 1892 ensures that DHS undertakes and documents a risk analysis to inform its policy positions.

This House unanimously approved this measure in both the 115th Congress and the 114th Congress; however, the Senate has, indeed, failed to act on the bill on both occasions.

Enactment of this bill will help chart a thoughtful path on how to align its resources with its mission and make the Nation more secure. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 1892.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will see that the Department of Homeland Security remains focused on its primary mission.

It is important that the Department complete this review so that it, in partnership with Congress, can continue to evolve with the threats that face our homeland.

I would also add that this measure passed the House last Congress by a vote of 415-0, and I would hope my colleagues would do the same today.

Finally, I urge DHS to deliver the long-overdue 2018 QHSR to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1892, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1892.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DHS INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2066

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.

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

"(b) INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program as part of the Rotation Program under subsection (a).

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, almost 18 years ago, Americans were horrified by the devastating September 11 attacks. While the perpetrator sought to bring us to our knees, we emerged more determined to protect our Nation.

In the years since the attacks, efforts to improve information sharing, interoperability, and coordination across all levels of government have been redoubled. H.R. 2066, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act, continues in the same vein by providing DHS employees with the opportunity to complete a rotational assignment within DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

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

As the threat landscape continues to rapidly change, ensuring that those charged with keeping us safe have ample opportunities to enhance their analytical skills must remain a priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan

legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2066, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2019.

I want to commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) for introducing this legislation.

The goal of H.R. 2066 is to establish a robust rotation program for intelligence analysts across the Department of Homeland Security. As a former intelligence officer, Representative GALLAGHER certainly understands the value of robust, interagency intelligence cooperation.

This legislation addresses specific shortfalls within the Department of Homeland Security where the different component intelligence offices do not reliably coordinate and analysts from one agency are rarely detailed to another.

This bill was originally introduced last Congress and received overwhelming bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, establishing a rotation program for intelligence analysts from individual DHS component intelligence offices is essential for building a robust DHS intelligence enterprise.

I applaud Congressman GALLAGHER for his work on this issue, and I want to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member MIKE ROGERS for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, last year, H.R. 2066 passed the House of Representatives under a suspension of the rules. Authorizing this program will help to improve the effectiveness of DHS' intelligence analysis operations for years to come. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2066, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 2066, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2019.

Having spent nearly a decade working on intelligence issues for the military and the Intelligence Community, I know first-hand the importance of collaboration between different intelligence offices. Understanding the mission sets and key intelligence questions of partner agencies not only makes the entire Intelligence Community better, but keeps our nation safer. We must do all we can to strengthen participation in programs that seek to encourage this type of cross pollination.

The Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program, or TRAP, was established to provide the Department's intelligence analysts with the opportunity to gain experience in the different mission areas across the DHS intelligence enterprise.

While the establishment of IRAP was an important step for improving intra-agency communication, the program has seen low levels of participation due to the fact that most DHS

intelligence offices are unaware of the program's existence, and there are no incentives for analysts to partake.

H.R. 2066 seeks to reverse this trend by authorizing IRAP within the larger "Homeland Security Rotation Program," or HSRP. Operated by the Under Secretary of Management, the HSRP encourages rotations for senior level employees throughout the Department to broaden their knowledge of various component operations.

Establishing a specific intelligence rotation program through this framework will raise the program's profile within the Department and encourage new incentives. Further, by creating a more robust and transparent rotation program, this bill encourages DHS intelligence analysts to gain the skills and competencies that elevate the Department's Intelligence Enterprise above its individual program missions while ensuring the program's existence in the future.

I want to thank Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Rogers for bringing this bill to the Floor, and my colleagues for supporting its passage. I urge the Senate to swiftly adopt this important legislation, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2066.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2578) to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2578

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking "May 31, 2019" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

(b) PROGRAM EXPIRATION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking "May 31, 2019" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after May 31, 2019, the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if enacted on May 31, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2578, the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019.

Since the National Flood Insurance Programs' multiyear authorization expired on September 30, 2017, ideological differences have led Congress to pass 10 short-term extensions and even allowed the program to briefly lapse twice during government shutdowns.

Unfortunately, the National Flood Insurance Program is currently set to expire May 31. My bill, which I have co-authored with Ranking Member MCHENRY, would extend the program to September 30 because we recognize that the NFIP is critical to ensuring access to flood insurance coverage across this country. This extension will afford the ranking member and me time to complete our work on a long-term, bipartisan compromise.

Mr. Speaker, the NFIP is much more than just an insurance program. The NFIP plays an important role in disaster preparedness and resiliency by providing flood maps, setting standards for floodplain management, and investing in mitigation for our homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

□ 1700

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, everyone is at risk of flooding. That means that this is not just a coastal issue. We all have an interest in ensuring a strong National Flood Insurance Program. We need a long-term reauthorization to provide certainty to homeowners and businesses, and we also need critical reforms to the program.

First and foremost, we must do more to address unaffordable premium costs for low-income households; address the program's debt, which is unfairly burdening policyholders with millions of dollars in interest; and lower costs and fees on policyholders.

Secondly, we need to invest more heavily in mapping, floodplain management, and mitigation, which will save taxpayer dollars in the long run by helping to reduce the damage that occurs when floods hit.

Finally, Superstorm Sandy exposed numerous issues related to claims processing, including findings of outright fraud. Going forward, we must work to ensure that we have safeguards in place and mechanisms for greater accountability and oversight to ensure that claims are handled fairly and efficiently to provide relief for policyholders.

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 2578 is not just a stopgap measure to kick the can down the road. I have every confidence that, with this extension, Democrats and Republicans will finally break the cycle of haphazard extensions. I intend to work in a bipartisan manner with Mr. MCHENRY to provide a long-term reauthorization to restore stability and confidence in the market. Through a thoughtful, bipartisan process, Congress can provide real relief to families, communities, and businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2578, a bill to enact a short-term extension of the National Flood Insurance Program. This program has over 5 million policyholders who have come to rely upon it, but it is also a flawed program that is in need of a customer-based set of reforms.

Flooding is the most common, destructive, and expensive of the natural disasters we face. I am confident in saying what worked in the Lyndon Johnson administration on disasters doesn't really work this year, in 2019.

The Financial Services Committee has held numerous hearings on this matter over the last decade, hearing from dozens and dozens of witnesses from all points of view, including consumers, local communities, and the insurance industry. The data we have accumulated from those hearings, or lack thereof, suggests that there is great need for programmatic reforms, reforms that include better data, increased transparency, better technology, and more innovation. These can be bipartisan reforms.

Moreover, the NFIP owes more than \$20 billion in debt to the American taxpayer. This is a major issue, despite the fact that last Congress \$16 billion of that debt was canceled. So it is a program in need of systemic reforms.

So what kind of National Flood Insurance Program do we want to have for Americans going forward? An insurance program that is equipped with the tools it needs to perform its insurance functions, pay claims, incentivize mitigation, and ultimately reduce our Nation's flood risk, or should the NFIP continue the current system of distributing benefits as needed, ultimately requiring annual appropriations as flood risk grows?

I hope that Members of this House will choose to support important reforms to modernize an outdated program. There are reasonable steps that we can take to reform and innovate in a bipartisan fashion. Strengthening the NFIP and giving policyholders 21st century options to match their 21st century expectations, I think, should be our outcome.

Private insurance, better technology, more mapping data, faster claims processing, and rethinking old underwriting models are just a few of the

tools readily available for modernizing the NFIP.

At the same time, we must also consider how we can use risk sharing to offload some of the NFIP burdens and the cost savings that come from spreading risk to others who are qualified, capable, and willing to manage it off the backs of the taxpayers and more broadly distributed to those who are willing to take that risk.

Building a more resilient and cost-effective NFIP are goals that will benefit all consumers and the American people, but these are long-term goals to which we can only aspire by passing this short-term extension today.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Chairwoman WATERS' engaging and reaching out to committee Republicans to work together on this measure to give us space and time so that we can have the bipartisan reforms that I think we can come to terms on later this year. But I also want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for agreeing to sit down with me as the ranking Republican on the committee and committee Republicans, roll up our sleeves, and get to work over the next few weeks and really collaborate on a full reauthorization bill that addresses her concerns, my concerns, committee Democrat and Republican concerns, and the needs of the public. I think we can come to that conclusion.

I think we can bring a bipartisan bill to the floor, and I appreciate that Chairwoman WATERS has had that appropriate outreach to committee Republicans. That is a hopeful sign for our opportunity to legislate this Congress.

The American people deserve an effective and efficient Flood Insurance Program that they can rely on. By working together in a bipartisan way, this Congress can ensure that that continues to happen, and I am sure we can meet that expectation.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to support this short-term extension with the hope and the goal of our bringing a bipartisan bill back before the House that can get the wide support of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend the engagement of Chairwoman WATERS on this matter and a number of other matters where we have been able to work together in a bipartisan way. I am hopeful and it is my expectation that we will be able to work together on this matter over the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the millions of families across the country who rely on the National Flood Insurance Program by offering H.R. 2578 here today.

My bill will provide continuity for the NFIP without which these families would be left unprotected in the face of increasing flood risk. What is more,

without the NFIP, the stability of the housing market would be put at risk.

My coauthor, Mr. MCHENRY, and I offer this bill today not as a permanent solution, but as a step towards a broader plan that will reauthorize the program for the long term and make reforms to ensure continued availability, affordability, and fairness in flood insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased for the coming together of Mr. MCHENRY and myself to present a bipartisan bill on behalf of all of our citizens. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2578, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2578.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KLEPTOCRACY ASSET RECOVERY REWARDS ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 389) to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay rewards under an asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures in the United States and abroad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 389

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

The Act may be cited as the "Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), a World Bank and United Nations anti-money-laundering effort, estimates that between \$20 billion to \$40 billion has been lost to developing countries annually through corruption.

(2) In 2014, more than \$480 million in corruption proceeds hidden in bank accounts around the world by former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha and his co-conspirators was forfeited through efforts by the Department of Justice.

(3) In 2010, the Department of Justice established the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, to work in partnership with Federal law enforcement agencies to forfeit the proceeds of foreign official corruption and, where appropriate, return those proceeds to benefit the people harmed by these acts of corruption and abuse of office.

(4) Of the \$20 billion to \$40 billion lost by developing countries annually through corruption, only about \$5 billion has been repatriated in the last 15 years.

(5) Governments weakened by corruption and loss of assets due to corruption have

fewer resources to devote to the fight against terrorism and fewer resources to devote to building strong financial, law enforcement, and judicial institutions to aid in the fight against the financing of terrorism.

(6) The United States has a number of effective programs to reward individuals who provide valuable information that assist in the identification, arrest, and conviction of criminal actors and their associates, as well as seizure and forfeiture of illicitly derived assets and the proceeds of criminal activity.

(7) The Internal Revenue Service has the Whistleblower Program, which pays awards to individuals who provide specific and credible information to the IRS if the information results in the collection of taxes, penalties, interest or other amounts from non-compliant taxpayers.

(8) The Department of State administers rewards programs on international terrorism, illegal narcotics, and transnational organized crime with the goal of bringing perpetrators to justice.

(9) None of these existing rewards programs specifically provide monetary incentives for identifying and recovering stolen assets linked solely to foreign government corruption, as opposed to criminal prosecutions or civil or criminal forfeitures.

(10) The recovery of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption may not always involve a BSA violation or lead to a forfeiture action. In such cases there would be no ability to pay rewards under existing Treasury Department authorities.

(11) Foreign government corruption can take many forms but typically entails government officials stealing, misappropriating, or illegally diverting assets and funds from their own government treasuries to enrich their personal wealth directly through embezzlement or bribes to allow government resources to be expended in ways that are not transparent and may not either be necessary or be the result of open competition. Corruption also includes situations where public officials take bribes to allow government resources to be expended in ways which are not transparent and may not be necessary or the result of open competition. These corrupt officials often use the United States and international financial system to hide their stolen assets and the proceeds of corruption.

(12) The individuals who come forward to expose foreign governmental corruption and kleptocracy often do so at great risk to their own safety and that of their immediate family members and face retaliation from persons who exercise foreign political or governmental power. Monetary rewards can provide a necessary incentive to expose such corruption and provide a financial means to provide for their well-being and avoid retribution.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that a Department of the Treasury stolen asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures is needed in order to—

(1) intensify the global fight against corruption; and

(2) serve United States efforts to identify and recover such stolen assets, forfeit proceeds of such corruption, and, where appropriate and feasible, return the stolen assets or proceeds thereof to the country harmed by the acts of corruption.

SEC. 3. IN GENERAL.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY KLEPTOCRACY ASSET RECOVERY REWARDS PROGRAM.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§9706. Department of the Treasury Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department of the Treasury a program to be known as the ‘Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program’ for the payment of rewards to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The rewards program shall be designed to support U.S. Government programs and investigations aimed at restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.

“(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The rewards program shall be administered by, and at the sole discretion of, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation, as appropriate, with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the heads of such other departments and agencies as the Secretary may find appropriate.

“(b) REWARDS AUTHORIZED.—In the sole discretion of the Secretary and in consultation, as appropriate, with the heads of other relevant Federal departments or agencies, the Secretary may pay a reward to any individual, or to any nonprofit humanitarian organization designated by such individual, if that individual furnishes information leading to—

“(1) the restraining or seizure of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within the possession or control of any United States person;

“(2) the forfeiture of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within the possession or control of any United States person; or

“(3) where appropriate, the repatriation of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within the possession or control of any United States person.

“(c) COORDINATION.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—To ensure that the payment of rewards pursuant to this section does not duplicate or interfere with any other payment authorized by the Department of Justice or other Federal law enforcement agencies for the obtaining of information or other evidence, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary may find appropriate, shall establish procedures for the offering, administration, and payment of rewards under this section, including procedures for—

“(A) identifying actions with respect to which rewards will be offered;

“(B) the receipt and analysis of data; and

“(C) the payment of rewards and approval of such payments.

“(2) PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUIRED.—Before making a reward under this section in a matter over which there is Federal criminal jurisdiction, the Secretary of the Treasury shall obtain the written concurrence of the Attorney General.

“(d) PAYMENT OF REWARDS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of paying rewards pursuant to this section, there is authorized to be appropriated—

“(A) \$450,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(B) for each fiscal year, any amount recovered in stolen assets described under sub-

section (b) that the Secretary determines is necessary to carry out this program consistent with this section.

“(2) LIMITATION ON ANNUAL PAYMENTS.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), the total amount of rewards paid pursuant to this section may not exceed \$25,000,000 in any calendar year.

“(3) PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.—The President may waive the limitation under paragraph (2) with respect to a calendar year if the President provides written notice of such waiver to the appropriate committees of the Congress at least 30 days before any payment in excess of such limitation is made pursuant to this section.

“(4) PAYMENTS TO BE MADE FIRST FROM STOLEN ASSET AMOUNTS.—In paying any reward under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible, make such reward payment—

“(A) first, from appropriated funds authorized under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) second, from appropriated funds authorized under paragraph (1)(A).

“(e) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—No award may be made under this section based on information submitted to the Secretary unless such information is submitted under penalty of perjury.

“(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—No reward paid under this section may exceed \$5,000,000, unless the Secretary—

“(A) personally authorizes such greater amount in writing;

“(B) determines that offer or payment of a reward of a greater amount is necessary due to the exceptional nature of the case; and

“(C) notifies the appropriate committees of the Congress of such determination.

“(3) APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No reward amount may be paid under this section without the written approval of the Secretary.

“(B) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate the approval required under subparagraph (A) to anyone other than an Under Secretary of the Department of the Treasury.

“(4) PROTECTION MEASURES.—If the Secretary determines that the identity of the recipient of a reward or of the members of the recipient’s immediate family must be protected, the Secretary shall take such measures in connection with the payment of the reward as the Secretary considers necessary to effect such protection.

“(5) FORMS OF REWARD PAYMENT.—The Secretary may make a reward under this section in the form of a monetary payment.

“(f) INELIGIBILITY, REDUCTION IN, OR DENIAL OF REWARD.—

“(1) OFFICER AND EMPLOYEES.—An officer or employee of any entity of Federal, State, or local government or of a foreign government who, while in the performance of official duties, furnishes information described under subsection (b) shall not be eligible for a reward under this section.

“(2) PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS.—If the claim for a reward is brought by an individual who the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe knowingly planned, initiated, directly participated in, or facilitated the actions that led to assets of a foreign state or governmental entity being stolen, misappropriated, or illegally diverted or to the payment of bribes or other foreign governmental corruption, the Secretary shall appropriately reduce, and may deny, such award. If such individual is convicted of criminal conduct arising from the role described in the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall deny or may seek to recover any reward, as the case may be.

“(g) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall issue a report to the appropriate committees of the Congress—

“(A) detailing to the greatest extent possible the amount, location, and ownership or beneficial ownership of any stolen assets that, on or after the date of the enactment of this section, come within the United States or that come within the possession or control of any United States person;

“(B) discussing efforts being undertaken to identify more such stolen assets and their owners or beneficial owners; and

“(C) including a discussion of the interactions of the Department of the Treasury with the international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act) to identify the amount, location, and ownership, or beneficial ownership, of stolen assets held in financial institutions outside the United States.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS.—The report issued under paragraph (1) shall not include information related to ongoing investigations.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of the Congress’ means the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(2) FINANCIAL ASSET.—The term ‘financial asset’ means any funds, investments, or ownership interests, as defined by the Secretary, that on or after the date of the enactment of this section come within the United States or that come within the possession or control of any United States person.

“(3) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION.—The term ‘foreign government corruption’ includes bribery of a foreign public official, or the misappropriation, theft, or embezzlement of public funds or property by or for the benefit of a foreign public official.

“(4) FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIAL.—The term ‘foreign public official’ includes any person who occupies a public office by virtue of having been elected, appointed, or employed, including any military, civilian, special, honorary, temporary, or uncompensated official.

“(5) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ‘immediate family member’, with respect to an individual, has the meaning given the term ‘member of the immediate family’ under section 36(k) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)).

“(6) REWARDS PROGRAM.—The term ‘rewards program’ means the program established in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

“(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(8) STOLEN ASSETS.—The term ‘stolen assets’ means financial assets within the jurisdiction of the United States, constituting, derived from, or traceable to, any proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from foreign government corruption.”

(b) REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED ASSETS.—Within 360 days of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a report to the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined under section 9706(h) of title 31, United States Code) describing policy choices and recommendations for disposition of stolen assets recovered pursuant to section 9706 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“9706. Department of the Treasury Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program.”

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 389, the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act offered by Representatives Lynch and Budd, will help the United States Government identify and recover assets that corrupt foreign government officials have stolen from their countries. The act does this through a Treasury-based rewards program that incentivizes individuals to notify the U.S. Government of the location of stolen assets that are linked to foreign government corruption. These assets may be bank accounts as well as luxury items, such as mansions, jewelry, jet planes, and artwork.

Law enforcement already works hard to find these stolen assets. Since 2010, the United States has fought in courts to freeze, forfeit, and ultimately recover more than \$3.2 billion in assets linked to foreign corruption to be returned to the victims of these financial crimes.

There are several recent examples of corrupt foreign funds making their way to the United States. The multibillion-dollar 1MDB scandal involving Goldman Sachs defrauded the people of Malaysia. To date, the FBI has identified \$1.7 billion of the proceeds of that crime, which went to purchase a yacht, museum-quality paintings, and real estate. In fact, the government returned \$57 million of recovered stolen funds to Malaysia following a settlement over the rights to the 2013 film, “The Wolf of Wall Street,” which was financed using corrupt 1MDB funds.

Similarly, the United States helped to recover over \$30 million from the sale of real estate, a Ferrari, and rare music memorabilia, which were purchased by Equatorial Guinea’s President Obiang and his son with corrupt funds.

H.R. 389 would direct the Treasury to pay whistleblowers rewards from the recovered assets for helping to uncover assets like these. Encouraging and incentivizing whistleblowers would strip the bad actors of the ill-gotten gains and help victims and their countries recover from the devastating effects of corruption.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LYNCH and Mr. BUDD for introducing this bill to help the U.S. punish kleptocrats. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 389.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 389, the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act, and I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) as well as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for their hard work on this important piece of bipartisan legislation.

H.R. 389 would authorize the Treasury Department to offer rewards for information leading to the recovery of assets stolen through foreign government corruption.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, the United States has focused on fighting such corruption with traditional tools such as sanctions, technical assistance, and oversight of international financial institutions, but the bill gives Treasury an additional tool to expose corrupt foreign officials.

I, again, would like to thank my colleagues across the aisle, especially Chairwoman WATERS, for her hard work on this bill and allowing us to work together in a bipartisan fashion to refine this legislation as it made its way to the floor.

One piece of the bill that has gotten better that I still think could use an additional tweak is the bill does not allow anyone to receive a payment if they are part of the corrupt activity, but it does not require Treasury to fully investigate every potential claimant to make sure that they are not. So while that has gotten better—there is better language in the bill now—I think that, hopefully, this can continue to be perfected as we move forward. I support the bill, but I do think that provision could get better.

The minority did make several proposals to strengthen the bill, which were accepted by the majority. I am grateful to the gentleman from Massachusetts for partnering with us, as well as the gentleman from North Carolina, and for their hard work on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to voting for H.R. 389. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

(1715)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), the sponsor of this legislation and a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on the committee and on this issue and for yielding me this time.

The opportunity that we have today here to present the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act is a very important moment.

I also want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and also the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), who have also contributed hard work in developing and cosponsoring this legislation.

Foreign dictators who rob the treasuries of developing nations, where independent judiciaries are rare, and the rule of law is often weak, is not a new problem; but, unfortunately, it is a growing problem.

It is now estimated that more than \$1 trillion is lost to bribes and official corruption around the world each year. A significant portion of those illicit proceeds are used to support organized crime and terrorist organizations, further destabilizing the social institutions where this corruption occurs, often in developing countries who can least afford it.

This undermines the local rule of law and contributes to the regional insecurity and instabilities in neighboring countries.

Governments that are weakened by corruption have fewer resources to provide basic services, to establish a stable business climate, and to create jobs. They also have fewer resources to devote to building strong law enforcement and judicial institutions to combat exploitation by terrorists and criminal organizations.

It is a sad fact that today much of this stolen money ends up here, in bank accounts right here in the United States.

H.R. 389 fights back against the spreading influence of this corruption. The Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act establishes a rewards program to incentivize individuals to notify law enforcement and authorities of assets stolen from foreign treasuries and illegally transferred to the United States.

Now, I appreciate the gentleman's concerns about making sure that bad actors don't participate in this incentive program.

This program replicates the incentives that have been utilized by the United States Department of Justice and the FBI for decades to take down criminal drug cartels with the help of paid informants.

While the United States has many effective programs to reward individuals who provide valuable information toward curbing criminal behavior, none of our programs currently have been designed to take aim at recovering stolen assets linked to foreign government kleptocracy.

Kleptocracy by foreign leaders can drain the hope and faith of struggling peoples around the globe who strive for social justice and equal rights.

This bill recognizes that foreign corruption takes many forms and that individuals who come forward to expose corruption often do so at great personal peril to themselves and to their families.

So, as transnational criminal enterprises persist, and terrorists adapt to

the different mechanisms that we use, we must provide law enforcement with fresh tools to address these emerging threats.

H.R. 389 does exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, the chairwoman for her cooperation and leadership. I thank my colleagues on the other side, especially Mr. BUDD, for his work on this bill as well. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working with me on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 389 will give the Treasury an additional tool to fight corrupt foreign governments. There has been a lot of work done on this bill. It is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Mr. LYNCH and Mr. BUDD have presented this bipartisan bill to the House. We must not allow the United States financial system to be a haven for stolen assets that rightly belong to others.

By incentivizing individuals to come forward with information about where these stolen assets are hidden, we ensure the financial security of our system and can help send back recovered assets to where they belong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 389, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUILDING UP INDEPENDENT LIVES AND DREAMS ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1060) to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1060

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act" or the "BUILD Act".

SEC. 2. MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTION DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) TILA AMENDMENT.—Section 105 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a

mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest primarily for charitable purposes by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code, forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) shall, collectively, be an appropriate model form for purposes of subsection (b) of this section."

(b) RESPA AMENDMENT.—Section 4 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest primarily for charitable purposes, an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code may use forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations), collectively, in lieu of the disclosure published under subsection (a) of this section."

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1060, the BUILD Act, which is bipartisan legislation authored by Representatives LOUDERMILK and SHERMAN that will allow nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity, offering mortgage loans for charitable purposes

to use alternative forms to satisfy disclosure requirements.

Specifically, this bill would allow bona fide nonprofits which are eligible for tax-exempt charitable donations to have the option to use the Truth in Lending, Good Faith Estimate, and HUD-1 forms instead of TRID forms required by the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure Rule. They may only do so in limited circumstances where they offer a zero percent interest loan.

Currently, financial institutions that make five or fewer mortgage loans a year are allowed to use these alternative disclosure forms, including the HUD-1 form, instead of the TRID form.

This bill simply extends this flexibility to eligible nonprofit charities in very limited circumstances, even if they make more than five mortgage loans a year.

Passing this bipartisan legislation will help nonprofits do their important work in helping families in our communities build and improve places to call home.

For example, the vast majority of the more than 1,200 local Habitat organizations in all 50 States are small, community-based organizations with very small mortgage portfolios and few, if any, full-time staff and rely on volunteers for much of their operations.

The BUILD Act will help charities like Habitat help families get a home of their own, but still ensures the material terms and costs of mortgage loans are clearly disclosed to the borrower.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LOUDERMILK and SHERMAN for their work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1060, the BUILD Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1060, the BUILD Act. This bipartisan legislation addresses an unintended consequence of the Know Before You Owe disclosure rule, better known as TRID.

The BUILD Act is a straightforward solution, and it allows bona fide nonprofits making zero percent interest loans to use whichever Truth in Lending form they feel is better. They can use the Truth in Lending, Good Faith Estimate, and the HUD-1 form instead of the TRID forms, or they can choose the TRID forms.

Currently, organizations making five or fewer mortgage loans are exempt from using the TRID forms. This extends that exemption to charities making zero percent interest loans, regardless of how many loans they make per year.

The costs and complexities associated with TRID have left charities like Habitat for Humanity struggling to provide mortgages. These nonprofits have limited resources. In fact, many of their 1,200 community-based affiliates have little or no full-time staff.

Despite their size, these organizations play a pivotal role in our communities. Today, the House will play a small part in helping them continue to serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN). They have worked together diligently on this legislation for several years and should be commended for their efforts.

I want to thank the chairwoman, Ms. WATERS of California, for her efforts on this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this legislation to be supported, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), a senior member of the Financial Services Committee and lead cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK). It has been a pleasure working with him on this bill, the Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams, or BUILD, Act. He has worked hard to get this over the goal line and has worked in a collaborative and bipartisan process.

We have heard from a number of Habitat for Humanity chapters across the Nation who make more than five loans a year and are having difficulty complying with the mandatory TILA/RESPA Integrated Disclosure form. They believe it has additional costs and complexity, especially when they had previously set up their systems to deal with the old forms.

The BUILD Act is straightforward and addresses those concerns. The bill allows a bona fide nonprofit that makes zero interest rate loans, like Habitat for Humanity, the flexibility in deciding which disclosure forms to use.

They can either use the relatively new TILA/RESPA Integrated Disclosure form, or they can use the three previously required forms: the Truth in Lending form, the Good Faith Estimate form, and the HUD-1 form.

This bill is supported by Habitat for Humanity International and the National Housing Conference.

It is a narrow tweak to ensure that nonprofits offering zero percent interest loans can focus on helping people get housing rather than focus on reprogramming their system to deal with the new TILA/RESPA Integrated Disclosure form.

This bill passed our committee 53 to 0 last year. It passed this House by voice vote last year. It went over to the Senate, where the Senate did what it all too frequently does, which is nothing.

I look forward to giving the Senate another opportunity by sending this bill back to them, since it has not only overwhelming but unanimous support here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK). He is not only an Air Force veteran, but his wife came up with the acronym for this bill.

□ 1730

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) not only for yielding time in support of my bill but giving the creative one in my family recognition for the pithy acronym that goes with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as has been stated, my bill is the Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act, which is also known as the BUILD Act.

First, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have worked with me to make this a strong, bipartisan effort.

I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for cosponsoring this bill and for his work, with our staffs working together, to make this is a bill as perfected as we can.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY for recommending this bill to come to the floor for a vote.

I also thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for her support and cosponsorship of this important legislation.

Last year, it was brought to my attention that certain regulations enacted by Dodd-Frank were placing a significant burden on charitable organizations that provide low-cost housing to needy families. These nonprofits were having to spend an excessive amount of time and resources complying with these new regulations, which were ultimately designed for large mortgage lenders.

The time and effort that they were spending on regulatory compliance was taking resources away from these nonprofits' core mission of providing affordable housing.

The problem, as I learned, was that the Dodd-Frank Act required the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to combine the TILA loan estimate and the RESPA closing disclosure forms into one integrated mortgage disclosure form called TRID.

While the intention of the new TRID forms was to ensure that home buyers received essential information about the costs and terms of their home loans, the unintended consequences of this one-size-fits-all approach significantly impacted nonprofit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity.

The TRID rule is nearly 2,000 pages long, very complex, and includes disclosure forms for things such as balloon loans and adjustable rate mortgages. While these types of loans may be applicable to traditional mortgage lenders, they are not relevant to these nonprofits. These new rules and their associated forms have caused confusion

for home buyers, staff, and volunteers of these charitable organizations.

To further complicate the matter, the new TRID disclosures were designed to be completed by computer software. However, these software applications are much too costly for many local Habitat affiliates and other nonprofits.

The vast majority of more than 1,200 Habitat groups nationwide are small, community-based organizations with very small mortgage portfolios. Few, if any, have full-time staff. These organizations have experienced challenges with the costs and the complexity of the TRID mortgage disclosure forms.

To remedy these problems, and to provide regulatory relief to these nonprofits, the BUILD Act exempts charities from the cost and complexity of the new TRID rule but still ensures that the terms of these mortgage loans are disclosed.

Mortgage lenders that make five or fewer loans a year are already exempt from TRID and are allowed to use the much simpler forms that were in place prior to Dodd-Frank. The BUILD Act simply extends this same exemption to nonprofits that are eligible for tax-exempt charitable donations and are making zero-interest mortgage loans, regardless of how many mortgage loans they are making per year.

The BUILD Act will allow local Habitat facilities, and other similar nonprofits, to choose whether they use these older but simpler forms or the new, more complicated TRID forms.

In closing, I want to reiterate that the purpose of this bill is to help charitable organizations spend more time fulfilling their mission, which is providing low-cost housing to needy families, and less time sitting in an office doing regulatory paperwork.

The bill recognizes that one size does not fit all, especially when it comes to regulating these charities, and it gives them the flexibility to choose which mortgage disclosure forms work best for them and for those they help.

As my colleague Mr. SHERMAN has already brought up, this bill passed the Financial Services Committee and the House unanimously last Congress. I hope that we can repeat that again today here in a few moments.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this important bill.

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

I would close by saying that the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from California have worked very hard on a bill that passed our committee unanimously and that helps nonprofits accomplish their mission of building capacity in housing, and I urge adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my thanks to the members of our committee, Representatives LOUDERMILK

and SHERMAN, for working together to craft a narrow piece of legislation that will help nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity have flexibility on which disclosure forms they use when they provide a zero-interest mortgage loan to a family getting a home of their own.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1060, the BUILD Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1060, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BANKING TRANSPARENCY FOR SANCTIONED PERSONS ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1037) to increase transparency with respect to financial services benefiting state sponsors of terrorism, human rights abusers, and corrupt officials, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1037

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON FINANCIAL SERVICES BENEFITTING STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS, AND CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a report to the Committees on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Foreign Relations of the Senate that includes—

(1) a copy of any license issued by the Secretary in the preceding 180 days that authorizes a financial institution to provide financial services benefitting a state sponsor of terrorism; and

(2) a list of any foreign financial institutions that, in the preceding 180 days, knowingly conducted a significant transaction or transactions, directly or indirectly, for a sanctioned person included on the Department of the Treasury’s Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List who—

(A) is owned or controlled by, or acts on behalf of, the government of a state sponsor of terrorism; or

(B) is designated pursuant to any of the following:

(i) Section 404 of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–208).

(ii) Subtitle F of title XII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act).

(iii) Executive Order 13818.

(b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 3. WAIVER.

The Secretary of the Treasury may waive the requirements of section 2 with respect to a foreign financial institution described in paragraph (2) of such section—

(1) upon receiving credible assurances that the foreign financial institution has ceased, or will imminently cease, to knowingly conduct any significant transaction or transactions, directly or indirectly, for a person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of such paragraph (2); or

(2) upon certifying to the Committees on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Foreign Relations of the Senate that the waiver is important to the national interest of the United States, with an explanation of the reasons therefor.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “financial institution” means a United States financial institution or a foreign financial institution.

(2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning given that term under section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) UNITED STATES FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “United States financial institution” has the meaning given the term “U.S. financial institution” under section 561.309 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 5. SUNSET.

The reporting requirement under this Act shall terminate on the date that is the end of the 7-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Member may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1037, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act.

This legislation requires the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress every 6 months a list of the licenses that it issues to financial institutions to provide services to countries and persons subject to certain U.S. sanctions. It also provides Congress with information about foreign financial firms that similarly provide

support to those same countries and persons.

I support this bill because I believe its disclosure requirements will serve as a useful oversight tool for Congress. Today, when the Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, issues a license to a company that allows them to engage in an activity that would otherwise be prohibited by U.S. sanctions, OFAC does not disclose those licenses.

I support the bill's other reporting requirement related to foreign financial firms. These lists of foreign financial institutions can provide a useful basis for Congress to review the administration's overall sanction strategy and to press the administration to impose restrictions on these institutions to change their behavior.

When a nearly identical version of this bill was considered by the Financial Services Committee last Congress, I supported the bill's disclosure requirements, but I thought it would be counterproductive to have the information revealed publicly.

For example, OFAC licenses often contain commercially sensitive information. If companies could no longer expect licenses to remain private, they would be less likely to apply for them, which would be detrimental to humanitarian efforts.

I didn't think the public identification of these foreign financial firms would serve a useful policy purpose and could otherwise move legal activity into a shade of gray. For these reasons, a Democratic amendment was adopted in committee by voice vote to allow for Congress to review the lists confidentially.

I believe H.R. 1037, which includes this critical change from last Congress, would increase congressional oversight of U.S. sanctions activity appropriately, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I want to express my strong support for H.R. 1037, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act. The bill includes important provisions to strengthen our national security, and it passed unanimously last year in the full House.

I am pleased to see this legislation come to the floor under a new sponsor, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN). Although he is in his first term, Congressman RIGGLEMAN has already made significant contributions to the committee's work. His leadership on this bill is a case in point.

The gentleman's legislation would require the Treasury Department to provide Congress with a copy of licenses that authorize financial services for state sponsors of terrorism. These licenses are essentially waivers, and while sanctions laws often require congressional notification when formal waivers are issued, licenses can fall through the cracks.

To be clear, some licenses may be desirable, such as those allowing humanitarian relief or allowing for tailoring of sanctions in order to better advance our policy goals. In other cases, however, Congress may have legitimate concerns that a sanctioned entity is being licensed to carry out transactions with U.S. persons, including our country's financial institutions.

This bill simply ensures that Congress knows whether a license has been issued, which will allow us to have better oversight of the sanctions program.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this bill requires Treasury to send Congress semi-annual reports that show which foreign financial institutions are providing support for sanctioned terrorists, corrupt officials, and human rights abusers. Although these bad actors are cut off from American banks, we should know whether they are evading our measures through the use of foreign entities. If Congress is made aware of these relationships, we can work to close those loopholes.

Again, the unanimous support these policies have garnered previously underscores their commonsense nature. Congressman RIGGLEMAN has spent much of his career before Congress devoted to protecting our national security, and his work on this bill, H.R. 1037, deserves our support.

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

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN), the sponsor of the bill. He has done great work here, and I will give him as much time as he may consume.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1037, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2019.

I thank the chairwoman of the committee, Ms. WATERS, as well as Ranking Member MCHENRY for their support and willingness to bring this legislation to the House floor for a vote. I also thank my colleague JOSH GOTTHEIMER for cosponsoring this legislation.

This bill requires the Department of the Treasury to report on financial services provided to a state sponsor of terrorism or sanctioned person. This is a commonsense reporting requirement that will further assist Congress in its oversight functions, including financial sanctions against state sponsors of terrorism, human rights abusers, and other bad actors targeted with certain U.S. sanctions.

This legislation is simple yet essential. It requires the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to Congress every 180 days a report with two sets of information: first, a list of the licenses it issues to financial institutions to provide services to countries and persons subject to certain U.S. sanctions, and

this would include state sponsors of terrorism such as Iran, North Korea, or Syria; second, Treasury would have to provide a list of any foreign banks that conduct significant transactions for persons that have been sanctioned for human rights abuses or corruption. This report will support Congress by ensuring that sanctions are being legally and appropriately applied across the board.

The information in these reports will inform Congress about how sanctioned states and individuals engage in financial transactions. Additionally, the increased transparency will help us understand the impacts of sanctions on targeted individuals.

With a clear idea of how certain foreign countries are undermining U.S. efforts to combat corruption and human rights atrocities, we can adjust our sanctions policies so they have the intended effects.

Finally, this bill will aid Congress and the executive branch to tailor secondary sanctions on foreign financial institutions, as well as better determine how those sanctions should be effectively designed and what the unintended consequences might be, if any should exist.

This will be a useful oversight tool and a powerful disclosure requirement that can help Congress understand existing sanctions and design a more effective program for the future.

Mr. Speaker, this bill unanimously passed the House in the 115th Congress, and I invite all of my colleagues to join me today and pass H.R. 1037.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bipartisan bill that passed unanimously in committee and in the House last year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1037, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2019, will help ensure that Members of Congress have the information they need to provide more effective oversight of the decisions made by Treasury and OFAC and the impact that those decisions have on sanctioned persons.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RIGGLEMAN for bringing this bill forward, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1037.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

- H.R. 299, and
- H.R. 2379.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 299) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 203]
YEAS—410

Adams	Beyer	Bustos
Aderholt	Biggs	Butterfield
Aguilar	Bilirakis	Byrne
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Calvert
Allred	Bishop (UT)	Carbajal
Amash	Blumenauer	Cárdenas
Amodei	Blunt Rochester	Carson (IN)
Armstrong	Bonamici	Carter (GA)
Arrington	Bost	Carter (TX)
Axne	Boyle, Brendan F.	Case
Babin	F.	Casten (IL)
Bacon	Brady	Castor (FL)
Baird	Brindisi	Castro (TX)
Balderson	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Banks	Brown (MD)	Cheney
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Barragán	Buchanan	Cicilline
Bass	Buck	Cisneros
Beatty	Bucshon	Clark (MA)
Bera	Burchett	Clarke (NY)
Bergman	Burgess	Clay

Cleaver	Heck	Meuser
Cline	Hern, Kevin	Miller
Cloud	Herrera Beutler	Mitchell
Clyburn	Hice (GA)	Moolenaar
Cohen	Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)
Cole	Hill (AR)	Moore
Collins (GA)	Hill (CA)	Morelle
Collins (NY)	Himes	Moulton
Comer	Holding	Mucarsel-Powell
Conaway	Hollingsworth	Murphy
Connolly	Horn, Kendra S.	Nadler
Cook	Horsford	Napolitano
Cooper	Houlahan	Neal
Correa	Hoyer	Neguse
Courtney	Hudson	Newhouse
Cox (CA)	Huffman	Norcross
Craig	Huizenga	Norman
Crawford	Hunter	Nunes
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	O'Halleran
Crist	Jackson Lee	Ocasio-Cortez
Crow	Jayapal	Omar
Cuellar	Jeffries	Palazzo
Cunningham	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Palmer
Davids (KS)	Johnson (SD)	Panetta
Davidson (OH)	Johnson (TX)	Pappas
Davis (CA)	Jordan	Pascarell
Davis, Danny K.	Joyce (OH)	Payne
Davis, Rodney	Joyce (PA)	Pence
Dean	Kaptur	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Katko	Perry
DeGette	Keating	Peters
DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Peterson
DelBene	Kelly (MS)	Phillips
Delgado	Kelly (PA)	Pingree
Demings	Kennedy	Pocan
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Porter
DesJarlais	Kildee	Posey
Deutch	Kilmer	Pressley
Diaz-Balart	Kim	Price (NC)
Doggett	Kind	Quigley
Doyle, Michael F.	King (IA)	Raskin
Duffy	King (NY)	Ratcliffe
Duncan	Kinzinger	Reed
Dunn	Kirkpatrick	Reschenthaler
Emmer	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (NY)
Engel	Kuster (NH)	Rice (SC)
Escobar	Kustoff (TN)	Richmond
Eshoo	LaHood	Riggleman
Espallat	LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)
Estes	Lamb	Roe, David P.
Evans	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Ferguson	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
Finkenauer	Larsen (WA)	Rooney (FL)
Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Rose (NY)
Fleischmann	Latta	Rose, John W.
Fletcher	Lawrence	Rouda
Flores	Lawson (FL)	Rouzer
Fortenberry	Lee (CA)	Roy
Foster	Lee (NV)	Roybal-Allard
Foxx (NC)	Lesko	Ruiz
Frankel	Levin (CA)	Ruppersberger
Fudge	Levin (MI)	Rush
Fulcher	Lewis	Rutherford
Gabbard	Lieu, Ted	Ryan
Gaetz	Lipinski	Sánchez
Gallagher	Loebsack	Sarbanes
Gallego	Lofgren	Scanlon
Garamendi	Long	Schakowsky
Garcia (IL)	Loudermilk	Schiff
Garcia (TX)	Lowenthal	Schneider
Gianforte	Lowe	Schrader
Gibbs	Lucas	Schrier
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Golden	Luján	Scott, David
Gomez	Luria	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez (OH)	Lynch	Serrano
Gonzalez (TX)	Malinowski	Sewell (AL)
Gooden	Maloney	Shalala
Gosar	Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean	Sherman
Gottheimer	Marchant	Sherrill
Granger	Marshall	Shimkus
Graves (GA)	Mast	Simpson
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Slotkin
Green (TN)	McAdams	Smith (MO)
Green (TX)	McBath	Smith (NE)
Griffith	McCarthy	Smith (NJ)
Grijalva	McCaul	Smith (WA)
Grothman	McClintock	Smucker
Guest	McCollum	Soto
Guthrie	McEachin	Spanberger
Haaland	McGovern	Spaño
Hagedorn	McHenry	Speier
Harder (CA)	McKinley	Stanton
Harris	McNerney	Staubert
Hartzer	Meadows	Stefanik
Hastings	Meeke	Steil
Hayes	Meng	Stevens

Stewart	Trone	Weber (TX)
Stivers	Turner	Webster (FL)
Suozzi	Underwood	Welch
Takano	Upton	Wenstrup
Taylor	Van Drew	Westerman
Thompson (CA)	Vargas	Wexton
Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Wild
Thompson (PA)	Velázquez	Williams
Thornberry	Visclosky	Wilson (FL)
Timmons	Wagner	Wilson (SC)
Tipton	Walberg	Wittman
Titus	Walden	Womack
Tlaib	Walker	Woodall
Tonko	Walorski	Wright
Torres (CA)	Waltz	Yarmuth
Torres Small (NM)	Waters	Yoho
Trahan	Watkins	Young
	Watson Coleman	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—21

Abraham	Higgins (LA)	Scott, Austin
Brooks (IN)	Johnson (LA)	Sires
Budd	Massie	Swalwell (CA)
Cartwright	Mullin	Vela
Costa	Olson	Wasserman
Cummings	Roby	Schultz
Dingell	Scalise	
Graves (LA)	Scott (VA)	

□ 1856

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAUTHORIZING BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2379) to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 9, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 204]
YEAS—400

Adams	Boyle, Brendan F.	Chu, Judy
Aguilar	F.	Cicilline
Allen	Brady	Cisneros
Allred	Brindisi	Clark (MA)
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Clarke (NY)
Armstrong	Brown (MD)	Clay
Axne	Brownley (CA)	Cleaver
Babin	Buchanan	Cline
Bacon	Buck	Cloud
Baird	Bucshon	Clyburn
Balderson	Burchett	Cohen
Banks	Burgess	Cole
Barr	Bustos	Collins (GA)
Barragán	Butterfield	Collins (NY)
Bass	Byrne	Comer
Beatty	Calvert	Conaway
Bera	Carbajal	Connolly
Bergman	Cárdenas	Cook
Beyer	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Bilirakis	Carter (GA)	Correa
Bishop (GA)	Carter (TX)	Courtney
Bishop (UT)	Case	Cox (CA)
Blumenauer	Casten (IL)	Craig
Blunt Rochester	Castor (FL)	Crawford
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Crenshaw
Bost	Chabot	Crist
	Cheney	Crow

Cuellar Johnson (TX)
 Cunningham Jordan
 Curtis Joyce (OH)
 Davids (KS) Joyce (PA)
 Davidson (OH) Kaptur
 Davis (CA) Katko
 Davis, Danny K. Keating
 Davis, Rodney Kelly (IL)
 Dean Kelly (MS)
 DeFazio Kelly (PA)
 DeGette Kennedy
 DeLauro Khanna
 DeBene Kildee
 Delgado Kilmer
 Demings Kim
 DeSaulnier Kind
 DesJarlais King (IA)
 Deutch King (NY)
 Diaz-Balart Kirzinger
 Doggett Kirkpatrick
 Doyle, Michael Krishnamoorthi
 F. Kuster (NH)
 Duffy Kustoff (TN)
 Dunn LaHood
 Emmer LaMalfa
 Engel Lamb
 Escobar Lamborn
 Eshoo Langevin
 Espallat Larsen (WA)
 Estes Larson (CT)
 Evans Latta
 Ferguson Lawrence
 Finkenauer Lawson (FL)
 Fitzpatrick Lee (CA)
 Fleischmann Lee (NV)
 Fletcher Lesko
 Flores Levin (CA)
 Fortenberry Levin (MI)
 Foster Lewis
 Foxx (NC) Lieu, Ted
 Frankel Lipinski
 Fudge Loebsock
 Fulcher Lofgren
 Gabbard Long
 Gaetz Loudermilk
 Gallagher Lowenthal
 Gallego Lowey
 Garamendi Lucas
 Garcia (IL) Luetkemeyer
 Garcia (TX) Lujan
 Gianforte Luria
 Gibbs Lynch
 Golden Malinowski
 Gomez Maloney,
 Gonzalez (OH) Carolyn B.
 Gonzalez (TX) Maloney, Sean
 Gooden Marchant
 Gosar Marshall
 Gottheimer Mast
 Granger Matsui
 Graves (GA) McAdams
 Graves (MO) McBath
 Green (TN) McCarthy
 Green (TX) McCaul
 Grijalva McCollum
 Grothman McEachin
 Guest McGovern
 Guthrie McHenry
 Haaland McKinley
 Hagedorn McNERney
 Harder (CA) Meadows
 Hartzler Meeks
 Hastings Meng
 Hayes Meuser
 Heck Miller
 Hern, Kevin Mitchell
 Herrera Beutler Moolenaar
 Hice (GA) Mooney (WV)
 Higgins (NY) Moore
 Hill (AR) Morelle
 Hill (CA) Moulton
 Himes Mucarsel-Powell
 Holding Murphy
 Hollingsworth Nadler
 Horn, Kendra S. Napolitano
 Horsford Neal
 Houlahan Neguse
 Hoyer Newhouse
 Hudson Norcross
 Huffman Norman
 Huizenga Nunes
 Hunter O'Halleran
 Hurd (TX) Ocasio-Cortez
 Jackson Lee Omar
 Jayapal Palazzo
 Jeffries Pallone
 Johnson (GA) Palmer
 Johnson (OH) Panetta
 Johnson (SD) Pappas

Pascrell
 Payne
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters
 Peterson
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Posey
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reschenthaler
 Rice (NY)
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Riggleman
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney (FL)
 Rose (NY)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouda
 Rouzer
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Sanchez
 Sarbanes
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spano
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Suozzi
 Takano
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Timmons
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small
 (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood

Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Wright
 Yarmuth
 Yoho
 Young
 Zeldin
 Amash
 Arrington
 Biggs
 Duncan
 Gohmert
 Griffith
 Harris
 McClintock
 Roy
 NAYS—9
 NOT VOTING—22
 Abraham
 Aderholt
 Brooks (IN)
 Budd
 Cartwright
 Costa
 Cummings
 Dingell
 Graves (LA)
 Higgins (LA)
 Johnson (LA)
 Massie
 Mullin
 Olson
 Roby
 Scalise
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Sires
 Swalwell (CA)
 Vela
 Wasserman
 Schultz

□ 1905

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SUR- VIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I ask others to join in that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

(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, today I introduced a resolution designating this week as National Infrastructure Week.

With every day that passes, the need for Federal infrastructure investment grows more and more urgent. Our roads, our bridges, our canals, our tunnels, our drinking water, our sewage facilities—they are all suffering because the Federal Government has not invested in rebuilding America's infrastructure.

Lives are on the line because our infrastructure is crumbling, and our drinking water is not safe. Our constituents are begging us to rebuild America's infrastructure.

Instead of that, the President is still obsessed with building his wall. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is not going to work for the American people.

Americans want water infrastructure that is not tainted with lead. They want roads that aren't full of potholes. They want bridges that aren't falling down. They want airports and schools that are safe.

They deserve nothing less. Let's go to work for the American people.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. RONNIE FLOYD

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, the Reverend Dr. Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, will deliver his final sermon in a joint service of the many campuses at Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Dr. Floyd has served as senior pastor at Cross Church for almost 33 years. He has presided over an unprecedented expansion of the church over four campuses in Arkansas and Missouri, with a combined membership of nearly 28,000.

Under his vision and leadership, just under 23,000 have come to know Christ as their personal savior, and Cross Church has an enviable reputation of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Nation and the world.

Average weekly attendance has grown from 1,800 people in 1986 to nearly 10,000 today.

Dr. Floyd will become the president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee on May 20 in Nashville, Tennessee.

I speak for the entire congregation of Cross Church in wishing Dr. Floyd and his wife, Jeana, the Lord's blessings during this transition to a new and exciting ministry and thank him for 33 terrific years at Cross Church.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise during National Infrastructure Week to highlight the importance of investing in a skilled infrastructure workforce.

Rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure will require more than investments in bridges, roads, and waterways. It will require a workforce that can design, build, and maintain them.

The Brookings Institution estimates that 3 million more workers will be needed to support our infrastructure over the next decade.

This is a great opportunity for millions of Americans who are out of work or underemployed. However, without adequate training, these workers won't be prepared to fill open jobs and carry out high-priority infrastructure projects.

That is why my Career and Technical Education Caucus co-chair, Congressman G.T. THOMPSON, and I are urging congressional leadership to prioritize workforce development in any infrastructure investment package that comes to this House.

CTE and apprenticeships are absolutely proven strategies that provide workers with the skills and training that they need for in-demand jobs, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance them in the coming months.

□ 1915

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 12 through 18 as National Police Week.

We are blessed to live in a country founded on the rule of law, and it could not be preserved without our Nation's courageous police.

This week, we show gratitude to the 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line daily for our safety.

We also honor those who have given their lives in the line of duty. This year, 371 fallen heroes were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, including Trooper Samuel Newton Bullard, who died serving Surry County in North Carolina's Fifth District.

These brave officers' sacrifices will not be forgotten, and their families are in my prayers. This Police Week, and every week, let's show our support for those who risk so much to keep us safe.

COMMEMORATING 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, 54 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson launched Head Start as part of the War on Pov-

erty, a historic effort to build a more just, equal America.

Today, Head Start serves children across my community, including more than 70 children in SafeStart, a program in my district designed for children of parents who struggle with substance abuse that has been recognized as a national model.

Across our country, over 30 million children have participated in Head Start since its founding. We have felt the benefits throughout our society. Study after study has shown how pivotal early childhood education is for positioning children to fulfill their potential later on.

Despite its record of success, Head Start is severely underfunded today. In my home State of Pennsylvania, only 27 percent of eligible children are able to get a slot in a Head Start program. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in pledging to fight to get increased funding for Head Start signed into law so that we renew our commitment to its promise of a future where every child in every ZIP Code can live a life of opportunity.

RECOGNIZING MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER WADE PALMER DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, I rise to recognize police officers in Montana who protect and serve our communities. They put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Wade Palmer embodies this selfless service. A husband to Lindsey and a father to two young daughters, Trooper Palmer started with the patrol in 2012 and has received the patrol's highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

In March, Trooper Palmer located a suspicious vehicle near Missoula. As he sat in his cruiser, a callous coward approached Palmer and shot him repeatedly. Thankfully, Trooper Palmer regained consciousness and is recovering in the hospital.

As we mark National Police Week, let us remember all who died in the line of duty. Let us remember to pray every day for the men and women in blue, as well as their families. And let us say a special prayer for Trooper Palmer and his family.

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO DECENCY

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, one rainy afternoon during my campaign last year, I was out knocking on doors. I met a man and asked what he cared

about. He paused as the rain poured down around us, and he uttered a single word, "Decency."

Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, we have watched as our democracy sinks to new and disturbing lows. We have seen national leaders dispense with civility and compassion and replace them with cruelty. We have witnessed a debasement of our traditions and a devaluation of goodwill.

But decency, that quiet virtue, has not disappeared. If anything, we have mourned its absence because we know that decency is essential for any democracy worth wanting. Decency is that basic commitment to treat each other charitably, to try understanding each other, and to value our common humanity more than our differences.

This is National Decency Day. Let us reaffirm that commitment to one another. Decency should be a starting point of all of our conversations. It should carry us through disagreements, even when things get contentious. It should guide us through the shoals of our biggest challenges, today and every day.

RECOGNIZING THE MCKINNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the McKinney Independent School District school resource officer program that was recently named a model agency by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

Every day, these officers go above and beyond their job description to educate and protect the youth of McKinney ISD. School resource officers are a vital part of our education system. For some students, this program provides a positive first interaction with law enforcement.

We could not ask for better role models or protectors.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the school resource officers of McKinney ISD as they continue to make a positive difference in the lives of students across Collin County.

PROTECTING LABOR IN NAFTA 2.0

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my grave concerns surrounding the new NAFTA whose new rebranding as the USMCA masks its real content.

The original NAFTA devastated the industrial Midwest and communities from coast to coast. Manufacturing communities were hollowed out. Factories closed. Jobs were outsourced to

Mexico for cheap labor. Mexico's peasants were uprooted. Plant shutdown after plant shutdown saw U.S. wages and benefits plummet.

President Trump hit a nerve with these communities with his lofty promises, promises of which we should all remain skeptical, especially in the trade arena.

We heard these hollow promises 25 years ago to pass the original NAFTA. Now NAFTA 2.0 stands to make many of the same mistakes based on false promises of returning quality jobs with life-sustaining wages.

This won't happen without true labor enforcement, but the current text of NAFTA 2.0 falls far short of that target. That is why I plan to introduce legislation to set the mark on labor enforcement on this continent under NAFTA 2.0 and any future agreement. The workers of this continent deserve no less. We respect their dignity.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week. More than 30,000 law enforcement officers from across the country are in Washington in honor of National Police Week.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

It is a time when we pause to remember officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving others.

National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community. It honors the men and women in blue who gave everything to protect their country and their communities.

Our officers put on their uniforms each day knowing that they can be in harm's way at any moment. National Police Week is a time to remember the sacrifices that many officers and their families have made.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of our officers who answer the call to serve.

ENACT NATIONAL STANDARDS TO PROTECT CHILDREN LIKE MALEAH DAVIS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story, very briefly, of little 4-year-old Maleah Davis, who has now been missing for almost 2 weeks.

Just a few days ago, it was said that her dad was taking her and her younger

brother to the airport. All of a sudden, he says she was kidnapped.

This is a little girl who was taken away from this family by CPS last year and, unfortunately, returned to that family by a judge at the beginning of this year. The little girl was abused and had brain surgery.

All of a sudden, after being kidnapped, the story that was told by the father was that he was unconscious from Friday to Saturday evening at 6 p.m.

My heart has gone out to that family and that little girl.

I thank law enforcement in Texas and in Houston, along with Texas EquuSearch and other volunteers who poured their hearts out to find this little girl.

We now know that this individual is under arrest. Blood has been found in the apartment. Other items or activity suggest that maybe that wasn't the true story.

I believe, as the chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, we must define how CPS returns children to their families, and there must be national standards.

I pray for the little girl, and I pray for those who love her.

SUPPORTING E-2 VISA HOLDERS

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the E-2 visa holders and their families who have been ignored by our Nation's immigration laws.

E-2 visa holders are required to be business owners, job creators, and risk takers. They are filled with the American spirit that makes this country great. And yet, their children are unfairly forced to leave this country on their 21st birthday.

The E-2 children have no protection, no leniency, and unlike DACA recipients, they receive no attention from the mainstream media.

We cannot continue to put the children of illegal aliens before the children of legal aliens. That is why I introduced the E-2 Visa Improvement Act, which will do two things: create a path to legal permanent residency after 10 years in the U.S., and allow children of E-2 visa holders to stay in the country until 26 years of age and to apply for work authorization.

I urge my colleagues to support these simple, commonsense reforms that will make a huge difference in the lives of law-abiding immigrants who are hiring and helping carry our economy forward.

HONORING FARMINGTON ROBOTICS TEAM

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

Mrs. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of the Farmington High School Rogue Robotics Team, a local robotics team that built a functioning power wheelchair for 2-year-old Cillian Jackson.

Cillian was born with a genetic disorder that makes it very difficult for him to get around. Buying a wheelchair would have been cost-prohibitive for his family, so his parents turned to the students of Farmington High School for their expertise and ingenuity.

The students of Farmington rose to the occasion and reimagined a Power Wheels into a power wheelchair by outfitting it with a new seat and a joystick that allow Cillian to move around on his own.

I congratulate the Farmington robotics team for their ingenuity and hard work in making this possible. They are an example of what is possible when communities come together and share their talents and ideas to help our neighbors.

□ 1930

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those brave men and women who selflessly serve our communities as sworn officers in our local police departments.

This week is National Police Week.

To say that police officers are heroes would simply be an understatement. Their work at times puts them in extremely dangerous circumstances where they are faced with life-or-death decisions. They, of course, know this and go back to work keeping us safe every day.

That was true late last year for three Lancaster City Police Officers—Andrew Williams, Matthew Caple, and Todd Dickinson—when a man visiting Lancaster fell short of breath and began leaning against a building. The officers performed CPR and used a defibrillator to stabilize him and save his life.

It is people like Detective Chris Jones of East Lampeter Township Police Department, who is working to end human trafficking, and Lower Windsor Township Patrolman Mark Jackson, working diligently to stop aggressive drivers.

One of the Lancaster City police officers who saved that man last year said: "We did what we had to do."

But we know they do not have to. They could choose any other profession. They choose to keep us safe, and for that, we are grateful.

NATIONAL DECENCY DAY

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a growing number of Americans in celebrating National Decency Day, a call to action to engage in civil discussion in the midst of bitter divisiveness.

As Americans, we cherish our freedom to dissent, but we must always bear in mind that these debates should be productive and substantive.

Lisa Cholnoky, a part-time resident of my district, has championed this belief in founding her Campaign for Decency. This campaign, which began on Shelter Island in my district, has now spread as far as Hawaii and Alaska.

This campaign sets an example for all of us to abide by across our country and here in Congress as we strive to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Cholnoky for championing this issue and empowering so many Americans to do the same.

HONORING SERGEANT KELVIN ANSARI

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Kelvin Ansari, who passed away in the line of duty on Saturday night at the age of 50.

On Saturday night, Sergeant Ansari and Officer Douglas Thomas arrived to investigate a robbery in downtown Savannah. Both officers returned to the scene later that night after receiving a description of the suspect's car, who they thought had left the scene. However, the individual was still inside the car and opened fire. Both police officers were struck, but Sergeant Ansari later succumbed to his injuries.

Joining the police department in Savannah in 2008, Sergeant Ansari had previously served in the United States Army for 21 years. He was a father of four, a husband, and a leader who dedicated so much of his life to protecting our country and our community.

It is unfortunate in times like these that we are reminded of the danger that our police officers face each day in keeping our communities safe.

Sergeant Ansari's family and friends, as well as the entire Savannah Police Department, are in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize National Charter Schools Week, a week where we honor the opportunity to bring real educational choice to millions of families across America.

Georgia has a rich history of school choice and in charter schools. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Drew Charter School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Serving more than 1,800 students from pre-K through 12th grade, Drew Charter School has implemented a project-based learning approach that is helping all students reach their highest potential.

The numbers speak for themselves. Drew Charter School has a 100 percent graduation rate. No wonder there is a wait list to attend this wonderful school.

While speaking with administrators, touring the beautiful campus, and visiting a few classrooms, it was evident that Drew Charter School has excelled in their mission to provide a quality education.

As the senior Republican on the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I look forward to sharing my support for charter schools and everything they do for our young students. By supporting charter schools, we are putting kids first in education, not politicians more concerned about power and money.

CHINA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST THREATS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for being here, and I want to start tonight out.

We are going to spend an hour highlighting what many of us on Capitol Hill view as one of the largest threats in the 21st century, and that is a China that has grown wealthy in building their military might.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my good friend.

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

To start off tonight, I just want to recognize that today is the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. I was honored to be there in person last year for this very special moment. Jerusalem should be recognized as the undivided, unquestionable capital of the Jewish state.

This was a bold move by this President not just to fulfill promises of Presidents past and to fulfill U.S. law; most importantly, it was the right thing to do.

In addition to its religious importance, Jerusalem is also the capital, the home, the location of the Israeli Knesset and offices and residences of the Israeli Prime Minister and President.

Moving our Embassy set an important precedent for other nations to follow as well.

I commend the President. I thank him for following through on his sup-

port and commitment. I thought it was important tonight to highlight that today is the 1-year anniversary of that important opening of the Embassy in Jerusalem.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida for hosting this important Special Order today.

The United States is currently facing a very real and dangerous threat from the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government is not just using a whole-of-government approach but, rather, a whole-of-nation approach to achieve global influence.

Today, I would like to focus on two areas of concern: Chinese military development, and its influence operations targeting U.S. academia and research.

China is rapidly modernizing its military in order to improve its anti-access/area denial radius, power force projection, and nuclear capabilities, with the goal of complete military modernization by 2035. Investments in nuclear and power projection capabilities have expanded China's reach beyond the Pacific region and into other parts of the globe, demonstrating its desire to conduct offensive operations.

Here are a few facts about China's military capabilities:

China has the largest navy in the region, with more than 300 ships. To put this in perspective, the United States currently operates 289 ships.

China's first aircraft carrier will likely enter the fleet this year, and its second aircraft carrier is already under construction, paving the way for China to have a multicarrier force.

China operates the third largest aviation force in the world, with more than 2,700 total aircraft.

Its first fifth-generation stealth fighter entered service in February of last year.

China maintains a stockpile of nuclear weapons and continues to modernize its arsenal.

China has claimed to successfully test its first hypersonic aircraft.

China is using the S-400 missile defense system, strengthening its A2/AD radius.

These capabilities, coupled with territorial and maritime disputes in the South and East China Seas, pose serious concerns for the region. Not only do we have a commitment to our allies, such as Taiwan and Japan, but the Pacific is the most heavily trafficked region for trade and commerce. Aggressive maritime and military actions by China, such as building man-made islands, not only threaten regional stability, but also global stability.

China is also expanding its military operations beyond the Pacific. In August of 2017, China opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti and is actively seeking other overseas military basing opportunities. According to a recently released Department of Defense report on China's military activities, China has sought to expand its

military basing access in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific. China's improving military capabilities, evolving focus towards expanding its operational reach, and establishment of overseas bases will increase China's ability to sustain operations abroad and enhance deterrence.

In order to combat China's military modernization aggression, the United States must continue to nurture our relationships with partner nations and protect our technological and military edge here at home. This brings me to the second area that I would like to discuss: China's influence operations that target and steal sensitive U.S. information.

One of China's largest targets in the United States is our Nation's academic institutions. According to the Department of Defense, almost a quarter of foreign efforts to steal sensitive information happen through academic institutions. China targets U.S. universities by exploiting our student visa program in order to gain access and steal sensitive, proprietary, and classified information. Many of these universities are conducting research on behalf of the Departments of Defense and Energy.

What is even more alarming is that, under Chinese law, citizens are required to provide data, information, and technological support or assistance to the Chinese Government upon request. This means that China can intimidate and coerce its citizens to provide information. This information is then funneled into China's military research and development.

The Chinese Government is also using members of its military to collaborate with researchers across the globe. The report entitled "Picking Flowers, Making Honey: The Chinese Military's Collaboration with Foreign Universities" revealed that, over the past 10 years, China's military, also known as the PLA, has sponsored more than 2,500 military scientists and engineers to study abroad in countries worldwide.

An analysis of peer-reviewed articles coauthored by PLA researchers found that they collaborate with researchers in the United States more than any other nation. These individuals often mask their PLA and Chinese Communist Party ties, allowing them to work at top universities without the schools' knowledge of military affiliation.

In addition to stealing sensitive U.S. research, China has established more than 100 Confucius Institutes across the United States. These educational institutions are funded and run by the Chinese Government and teach Chinese language, culture, and history to American students. FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before Congress that China is actively using nontraditional methods, such as Confucius Institutes, as outposts of Chinese overseas intelligence and influence operations.

Mr. Speaker, I have only highlighted two issues of concern. There are many

other concerns that I hope my colleagues will discuss today.

In order to address the challenges posed by China, we need a whole-of-nation approach. This is not just a military concern. We need our universities and constituents to be aware that China is active in all corners of the globe, including the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I thank these gentlemen for bringing us here today to shed light on this very important topic on the challenges we face from China.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Missouri for her comments. Those are very well pointed-out facts that the American people, if they knew this was going on, would stop buying "made in China."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and my colleague from Florida for leading this Special Order this evening because I am not quite sure that we talk enough about China here on the floor of the House.

If you look at any time horizon, short-term or long-term, China is the most serious challenge to our Nation's interests. There are other challenges, to be sure, but let's take a look at what China is about.

Geographically, it is similar in size to the United States.

It is economically enormous, with more than \$12 trillion GDP, which is second only to ours on an annual basis. And on this point, it is important to remember that they hold \$1.1 trillion worth of U.S. debt.

They are militarily mighty. The PLA, People's Liberation Army, is the largest force on Earth, with more than 2 million personnel.

Gigantically populous, with more than 1.4 billion people, it dwarfs the size of our own Nation's 325 million people.

□ 1945

Is it possible that those numbers indicate a stronger China than is actually the case? Perhaps. After all, hundreds of millions of Chinese citizens who don't live in the nation's most prosperous cities are still living in poverty and probably will continue to do so for some time to come.

It is also true that China's military today, while large in number, does not have the advanced capabilities of our own military. But these shortcomings are almost certainly temporary, and we should assume that China will continue to close these gaps relative to our own Nation's power.

So what should we do? I want to highlight four areas of concern, vis-à-vis China.

First of all, the South China Sea. Perhaps most, importantly, we need to push back on any Chinese efforts to turn the South China Sea into a Chinese lake. They have been doing this for decades now.

China is rapidly modernizing its naval capabilities and builds man-made

artificial islands near the Spratly archipelago.

Well over \$5 trillion worth of commerce passes through the South China Sea each year.

We must continue to unequivocally assert U.S. rights to fly, sail, and otherwise operate in these international waters, and we also must make sure that our allies do, as well.

Taiwan, we must continue to reject China's efforts to bully Taiwan into accepting a "one-China" policy.

Taiwan has been a great friend to the United States for the past 40 years that the Taiwan Relations Act has been in effect, and it is a key strategic partner.

It is uniquely positioned to buffer China's eastward expansion into the Pacific.

We need to continue to strengthen our critical relationship with Taiwan.

Huawei and other Chinese technology companies jeopardize the security of our Nation's telecommunications network. I strongly support the Trump administration's efforts to prevent Huawei from participating in U.S. 5G modernization efforts, and I hope that Secretary of State Pompeo will be able to convince our Western European allies to do likewise.

Finally, I will talk about trade. This subject is very much in the news today.

I am cautiously optimistic that the Trump administration's carrot-and-stick approach to trade negotiations will bear fruit, even if the tariffs are painful in the short term.

At the very least, I appreciate the fact that we finally have a President who is willing to confront the Chinese about decades' worth of bad behavior.

China has been a notorious currency manipulator ever since it began to modernize its economy in the late seventies. It also shamelessly rips off our Nation's intellectual property. We simply can't engage in mutually prosperous trade with China if that nation refuses to play by the rules.

My last remarks on trade are important because they highlight an important point that I hope does not get lost in this discussion: Our Nation can and should aim for a mutually beneficial relationship with China. In fact, our two nations can continue to grow rich together.

Just because China will be our geopolitical rivals in the coming years and decades does not mean that they will necessarily become our enemies. But having said that, we must not be under any illusions about China's great power ambition, and we must not give an inch when China challenges our own Nation's prosperity or our interests.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our Members in this body and I encourage the administration to continue to do all we can to push back on China's unfair trade practices and attempt to turn the South China Sea into a lake controlled by China, thereby manipulating trillions of dollars worth of trade.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arizona, who pointed

out some great things. We are going to talk about the South China Sea, or the East Sea, and what China has done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for hosting this Special Order tonight on China.

I was watching the news today like most other folks are, and part of the news says that the tariffs are the problem and the President is the problem. That is what they are literally saying in the United States of America today.

Ladies and gentlemen, the tariffs aren't the problem and the President isn't the problem. China is the problem. They have been the problem for a long time, but nobody in the United States has been willing to confront it.

For many years, China has pursued industrial policies and unfair trade practices that include dumping, discriminatory nontariff barriers, forced technology transfer, overcapacity, and industrial subsidies, all this to champion Chinese firms and make it literally impossible for American firms to compete. People say: Well, all these jobs went to China. All these jobs went overseas.

How do you think that happened? It happened because China is not a reasonable actor. They are not playing fair. They have not been playing fair, and they have been taking advantage of the United States and other countries for a very, very long time. Finally, there is a President who is willing to confront them.

Let's talk about China as the world's largest principal IP infringer, and their government actually encourages the theft of intellectual property.

People talk about the value of these tariffs. Nobody likes the tariffs in the United States. We don't want to have to do this, but we have limited options.

They said the cost of the tariffs. Well, how about the cost, annually, of IP theft, anywhere from \$225 billion to \$600 billion, including counterfeit goods, pirated software, and theft of trade secrets. That is every year, regardless of any tariff in the United States. That is just what the Chinese steal, sanctioned by the Chinese Government.

Our IP-intensive industries support at least 45 million U.S. jobs. Are we going to wait until all those head to China as well? For every high-tech job in the United States, five jobs are created indirectly in a local economy.

Actually, China accounts for 87 percent of counterfeit goods seized coming into the United States. It starts making you wonder why we allow any of their goods to come into the United States.

China conducts and supports cyber intrusions into the United States' computer networks to gain access to valuable research and business information so Chinese companies can just literally copy products and processes. What are some examples? Well, just things like a vacuum cleaner to solar panel technology.

Does anybody wonder why we buy so many solar panels from China? They stole them from us, and then they are selling them back to us. Who is the fool here?

And how about the blueprints to the Boeing C-17? Anybody deployed around the world lately in military uniform? It is good to know that China has the plans.

Hackers from China with ties to the government have been accused of breaking into gas companies, steel companies, and chemical companies. A Chinese Government company was indicted for stealing the secret chemical makeup of the color white from Dupont.

China developed its J-20 fighter plane, a plane similar to Lockheed-Martin's F-22 Raptor, shortly after a Chinese national was indicted for stealing technical data from Lockheed-Martin, including plans for the Raptor.

In 2010, Google went public in announcing that it had been hacked by the Chinese Government; and in December of 2018, two Chinese nationals were charged with hacking more than 45 companies in coordination with China's state security service.

These are just a few of the cases.

Just a couple of months ago, in *The Wall Street Journal*, it was reported that 27 universities located across the United States were targeted by Chinese hackers due to their involvement in research of military-use maritime technology. You heard some of the speakers just recently talk about China's newfound military and naval prowess.

Let's go into some of the CFIUS reports, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. CFIUS ordered a Chinese health data analytics firm backed by Tencent to sell its majority stake in PatientsLikeMe, which helps connect people suffering from the same illness.

Why would China hack that, you wonder? Well, if you can think about any data that you have—your very, very personal data, including sicknesses that you might have—China actually wants that kind of stuff, and they don't have good intentions for it.

CFIUS blocked the \$1.2 billion purchase of MoneyGram, a money transfer firm, by Ant Financial, an Alibaba affiliate, on national security grounds.

In 2017, American officials warned that DJI, a leading drone maker, was probably sending data on critical infrastructure back to China's Government. The U.S. Army barred DJI drones from its bases. But if you don't know you have a DJI drone and you are operating on a military base, you can probably be self-assured that China is collecting the information and you are actually helping them.

How about this? In 2018, American Government agencies were banned from using cameras made by Hikvision, the world's biggest manufacturer of closed-circuit TV kits. We actually had to ban them, and the government was buying them. They are spying on us in

our own government buildings because we are buying their cameras, and we know it is happening.

It is incredible, ladies and gentlemen. China is the problem. It is not the President and it is not the tariff. It is what China does.

Then there is the race to 5G, which America must win. China is on pace to be the global leader in 5G technology. That is just how it is. They actually beat Ericsson, and now a spy state—a spy state—is on track to be the leader in 5G technology.

We simply must work with our allies to stop the introduction of Huawei equipment—that is who is making it—into foreign networks. It threatens the integrity of personal data, government secrets, military operations, and democratic principles.

When the United States military operates around the world, we use the backbone architecture oftentimes to communicate. If that backbone communications architecture has been made by Huawei, we might as well just be telling China exactly what we are doing. Our tactic, technique, procedures are all given up immediately to China.

Social media, medical services, gaming, location services, payment, and banking information, every single thing that happens over the internet, if it is happening over a Huawei 5G network, they are knowing about it.

The Pentagon, just last month, warned of "near persistent data transfer back to China." Near persistent, so just continuous data transfer. And they use this information to coerce and punish not only their own citizens, but people in countries around the world.

And again, the 2017 intelligence law in China requires any organization or citizen to support, assist, and cooperate with the security services of China's communist government.

Now, let's be clear here. We are not talking about the Chinese people, but we are talking about the Communist Party in China. We are talking about their leadership, and we are talking about their government. That is who we are talking about there.

Again, the Chinese dominance in 5G threatens future U.S. military operations. We will not be able to operate. We will have to set up our own network everywhere we go where Huawei is responsible for 5G networking. These are just national security risks that happen in Europe and across Africa.

You need to know, as well, that Huawei's equipment does not interoperate with any other vendor. So if you are using Huawei equipment, even if it is 4G, it doesn't interoperate with anything, so you are forced to buy Huawei for 5G if you want to advance.

Other people have talked about China's global influence—unrestricted warfare—in every single paradigm.

Ladies and gentlemen, the tariffs are not the problem. Unfortunately, China has been in an economic war with us for about four decades.

The President is not the problem. China and this malign behavior to us and democracies around the globe are the problem.

I am glad we are finally talking about it. I hope that the rest of our colleagues here in the House of Representatives will join us in researching and becoming aware and informed about China's activities and then supporting policies that deal with China's malign activities in our universities, technology transfer, and—you name it.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Pennsylvania, who is a brigadier general, and he has been on the front lines, for those remarks.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue on the rise of China and why it is important.

I think we have heard some great ideas today and some great dialogue, but this is something the American people need to pay attention to. This is something that our legislators need to pay attention to. This is something that we hear over and over again.

I have had the pleasure of being in Congress for 7 years, chairing the Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee in the last Congress, and I am the lead Republican in this Congress. The information we hear over and over again doesn't get better. In fact, what we find out is a more aggressive China that has raised all pretenses of the past, and I will talk about that.

Before I go into this too much, I want to start with this: China has an amazing history that spans thousands of years. Its culture has stayed, for the most part, intact until the 19th century.

□ 2000

At one point, China and most of Eurasia was under the control of Genghis Khan and the Mongolian Empire for over 100 years before the Khan dynasty lost to the prevailing emperors in the 19th century. I bring this up to counter China's nine dashed historical lines that they are making claim in the South China Sea and now their claim that they are now making near Arctic territory.

Later on in this dialogue, I want to talk about that because China predicated everything by saying: "Well, we historically have sailed in the South China Sea; therefore, it is ours." Now China is saying they are near the Arctic, so being near that, they want to claim that as theirs when international law says it is not so.

In fact, the Philippines took China to court over the South China Seas, and I will have some maps here that we will discuss later.

China went from a major economic power in the 18th century to a nation addicted to opium and taken over by European colonial powers and Japanese imperialism. During the 19th century, China's ruling class allowed their country to be taken over by European colonial powers while over 90 percent of their male population became addicted to opium.

And I want to highlight that because we are going to talk about the fentanyl and the opium that are coming into this country and what country they are coming from.

The cultural heritage and social fabric of China decayed, and China entered into a peasant state isolated from the world, for the most part, during the next 70 years. This truly was a century of shame.

The PLA, the People's Liberation Army, emerged in the twenties, in fact, in 1927. They will have a 100-year anniversary highlighting that in 2027.

Mao Zedong was a favored member of the PLA. He later became the Chairman of the Communist Party of China. He promised communism would be the savior of China, but, unfortunately, for the 70 to 80 million people who died under Mao's policy, for them, it was a disaster.

Mao did set a 100-year plan, though, for China to regain their stature lost. Maoism became a belief for many, which seems bizarre, knowing that history records millions of people's deaths were credited to his policies.

Then, a foreign policy by President Nixon and then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger invited China into the modern 20th century. Many today look back and realize that this was a massive misstep in foreign policy. The hope was that China would become a responsible partner in the modern world, but, unfortunately, China thrived at the expense of the United States and many other nations with heavily lopsided, one-way favored trade deals that favored China but nobody else. In the process, China became very strong and very wealthy.

Maoism gave way to the era of Deng Xiaoping, who realized at the time China could not compete with the U.S. or Japan in intellectual capacity or in manufacturing, but he had the foresight to corner the market in rare earth minerals. Deng Xiaoping's saying was: Bide your time and hide your strength. Today, China has virtually cornered the rare earth market that Deng Xiaoping spoke of in the 1980s.

In fact, the F-35s today, our highest tech fighters, the highest tech in the world, have been copied by China via intellectual theft. And the rare earth metals, the weight of an F-35 is approximately 10 percent. This is approximately 4,000 pounds.

Now, get this. Ninety percent of these metals come directly from China. The other 10 percent come from countries that get these metals from China. So Deng Xiaoping fulfilled a promise he made.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman for conducting this Special Order. I appreciate the gentleman inviting me to come down here.

Just a few observations, if you will.

As I have watched the speeches tonight, there has been a litany of concerns about China's aggression, China's positioning, China's covert activities, China's willingness to engage in intellectual theft, China's pervasive influence all around the world.

I have been to China once. I found it to be highly engaging. I found the people that we were with to be very welcoming and warm. I am very grateful and try to be attentive to China's long-suffering and rich cultural history. And as China tells us, there is room enough in the Pacific for two superpowers, and I want to return to that point.

When I looked out of the window of the place where I was staying in Beijing, it looked as though fog had set in. But it wasn't fog; it was pollution. The air was so thick, you could hardly see maybe 20 feet. If you live in Beijing, it takes 5 years off your life because of the pollution.

In fact, I had one Chinese person whisper to me: "What is the point of all this economic development if it kills you?" And I really wanted to tell him: "Please, don't say that too loudly."

The point is that China has engaged in a series of unfair subsidies that create an unlevel playing field for trade. China's very system, a capitalistic-communist hybrid system is very different than ours. They are state players that receive direct subsidies that we don't have. The indirect cost of not having environmental regulation is a form of subsidy to industry. Low labor standards, the exploitation of persons, is another, and on and on.

So we can walk through the financial balance sheet as to who has what tariff and who doesn't, and who subsidized this and who doesn't, but, fundamentally, there are things in that equation that we, perhaps, haven't counted.

Another reality here is China has as their reason for being, it seems now, an economic nationalism. Now, we do, too, in America. Economics is important to us, but it stands alongside a spectrum of values of personal liberty, the exercise of opportunity, and the ability to engage in communal activity, free associations. We don't even think about these things.

These are very, very different propositions in China. One places himself at the service of the larger idea of the state. The person is subservient to the larger idea of the state.

Mr. YOHO. Exactly.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. And the person can operate within a certain band of liberties.

I saw it. People can move around. People can visit things.

But it is a certain band of liberties that, if you violate that, step beyond it, you contradict the nature of the system and could pay a very heavy price.

We see this in human rights violations, the lack of certain freedoms that we enjoy that we think are consistent with human dignity. And this is how it manifests itself.

I know you, Mr. YOHO, are very attentive to the issue of development, sustainable economic development, particularly for the world's poor, to conserve our resources, to use the best of the market systems for empowerment of space, for the flourishing of the individual. That then creates the opportunity for just governance and a healthy nationalism, and that is our ideal.

So, before the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, recently, Secretary Pompeo appeared, and I asked him a question. I said: Mr. Secretary, how much does China give in foreign assistance?

He had one of those moments where he didn't exactly know how to answer. I wasn't asking a question in order for him to give an answer, because we all know the answer: It is pretty minimal.

Mr. YOHO. It is.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. The United States gives away about \$25 billion a year, and that is in non-security assistance alone: trying to help the poor, to feed the poor, trying to create a space for food security, sustainable agriculture, conservation, medical care for the sickest around the world.

We do this because it is our impulse, our humanitarian impulse. We just don't sit around while other people die. We also do it because it facilitates relationships, economical and cultural. And, finally, when you have the factors that lead to stable societies, it is in our own security interest and the security of the world. So, for these reasons, we do these things.

So I asked the Secretary: How much does China give? It might be a sprinkling here or there. I don't exactly know the number. But for a country with this size of an economy, with this amount of power, with this amount of growth, with this amount of pervasive activity all around the world, particularly in the developing nations, there comes a set of responsibilities along with that.

I think that is really part of the attention here, underlying this current trade dispute. What are we both vying for?

I agree with the Chinese that there should be room enough for two superpowers in the Pacific, but you have got to come to some alignment about what it means to be in a fair, reciprocal relationship.

We have to do a better job of respecting the space of other people's history and tradition in the way they want to organize themselves around governance while, at the same time, upholding this

fundamental principle of human dignity, without which things just collapse into transactional relations that can come and go, or worse, when they are gone, lead to potential conflict.

We need a healthy relationship with China. We have gone through a litany of complaints about China tonight, but there are a couple other complaints I want to have, and it is looking inward at ourselves.

I think it is time for American businesses to do business in America.

Mr. YOHO. All right. You are singing a great song that I have shared with the AmChams, I have shared with other countries, and it is our philosophy of ABC. When you go to manufacture, it is anywhere but China.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. There is a small manufacturing facility in my district. They make a fairly generic, standardized product. I was a little surprised that they didn't have a relationship with the Chinese, and they said: "Oh, no. That R&D is rip-off and duplicate."

Mr. YOHO. That is exactly right.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. "That is why we won't deal with them."

That is a sad reality, because we ought to be able to deal, using a fair set of rules, with people who may be doing something better than we are and we do something better than they do, and we can benefit in reciprocal fashion.

But it has gotten so disordered because we shifted manufacturing there, and a lot of big businesses around this country make a lot of money off of poor environmental standards and poor labor standards imposed on other people.

Mr. YOHO. Exactly.

Can I get you to yield?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Sure.

Mr. YOHO. You are leading into where I was going.

In 1990, President Clinton recommended China's entry into the WTO on a developing nation status. Yet today, they are the second largest economy in the world—second to the U.S.—and they are still a developing nation status. Yet they have a blue-water navy.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. So ask ourselves why. What are the incentives around here to change this?

Mr. YOHO. And they have a Moon program.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Well, why do we allow this to continue?

Mr. YOHO. Why do we allow it?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Well, could it be that there are a lot of big-time transactions going on in our system itself that benefit a few big multinationals that have taken their manufacturing and planted it over there? They make the stuff, and we buy the stuff.

And this is the third point I want to make to you, which is, again, a little bit of self-reflection on our own role in this.

They make the stuff; we buy the stuff. We run up debt; they have the cash; they buy the debt.

So here we find ourselves in this very dysfunctional marriage of having shifted vast amounts of productive resources there because, supposedly, we can't make this more efficiently—supposedly. Really?

Mr. YOHO. Right. I don't buy into that either, and I am glad you brought that up.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. So we run up the debt, and they hold the debt.

And what is debt? Well, none of us around here really wants to face it—on our side of the aisle either, Republicans. It is a form of taxation.

Mr. YOHO. It is.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. It is just hidden from everyone. And the manifestation of it is a wealth shift of our country's assets into the hands of other people.

So we are talking about the military buildup. We are talking about the exploitation of resources, particularly in Africa, with no consideration of the environmental impact and no attacking of the subsequent problem of structural poverty that existed in a lot of places.

□ 2015

It is just taking things out and leaving not much behind, and that is not fair to the world's poor. The problem, again, is one of self-reflection that we have to have both in terms of the responsibility that America's business has because we have provided the infrastructure and the systems, through very large public subsidies, so they can thrive. It is incumbent upon them to take responsibility. Maybe it is time for American businesses to do business in America.

Secondly, is this issue of debt. Now, if this tension prolongs and the reality that China has a stick, and they start to refuse or dump treasuries, what is that going to do? Interest rates will go up.

Mr. YOHO. That is right.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, that is an impact on us, but it is one we are going to have to live with because we have done it to ourselves. There are a couple of lessons here: fair trade, mutual respect, smart trade, both people benefit.

Secondly, America's businesses will not get this public subsidy from us any longer through unfair trade practices that we allow.

The third lesson is: an honest confrontation about what debt really is. It is a hidden form of taxes, shifting the wealth assets of this country elsewhere into places like China, which we are complaining about are not using those assets in a way that we would like to see in a productive manner.

There is lots of blame to go around here, but I want to thank the gentleman for the opportunity to at least start to unpack this in an honest way.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman coming out.

I see this as a series of Special Orders on China, because the American people need to know this. When they go to a

shelf and buy something that is cheap, and they look at that and it says, “made in China,” they are feeding this trade imbalance. So they are partly responsible for that.

As the gentleman well pointed out, if I fast forward to Xi Jinping, to the current era right now, the estimate is that there is a \$300-plus-billion—I heard it was \$400 billion—trade imbalance, I can’t blame China for that. I blame our leaders since President Nixon.

For the last 40 or 50 years, somebody has dropped the ball or taken their eye off the ball. If you allow a trade imbalance of \$400-billion-plus, and then add to that the theft of intellectual properties that we have heard up to \$600 billion—I am sure you saw the DHS as they brought in products made by our manufacturers that went to China that are now coming from China, and it looks identical, yet, it is made by China. So it is robbing that profit and the jobs from American manufacturers that should go here, and it has to stop.

I commend the Trump administration for standing up to that. I think the gentleman brought this out.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, the reckoning is here.

Mr. YOHO. The reckoning is here.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. It has been hidden, but the consequences have been real. It is now on the surface. The day of reckoning is here.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, it is, and I hope the gentleman participates in these. Because that day of reckoning is here, and if we don’t do it today, it is only going to get worse. So this is something that we have to come together as Americans. It is not President Trump out there. It is not some of the businesses that are bold enough to stand with him.

We, the American people, need to stand behind him, and I think the gentleman brought this up that this is not a fight with the Chinese people. It is the system that is running unfair trade balances.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to bring up, going back to my notes here is, we are in the era of Xi Jinping. I don’t think our disagreement is with the Chinese people, but it is with the policies of Xi Jinping and the Chinese or the Communist Party of China.

The 2017 Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in October of 2017. During that time, Xi Jinping kind of came out and was very bold in his statements. He said: The era of China has arrived. No longer will they be made to swallow their interests around the world. It is time for China to take the world’s stage.

The gentleman brought this up. There is plenty of room on the world’s stage if you want to be fair and balanced, and you want to play like everybody else, but you have to honor international law. You have to honor the rule of law, honoring contracts, honoring the beliefs that we have to be a respected trading partner.

We penned an editorial that talked about Xi Jinping is leading—along with

the Communist Party which is 90 million members—is leading China into a second century of shame, and it is because they are losing face. They are losing honor that the Chinese culture, over millennia, built up. They were respected. But they are getting ready to enter into the second century of shame, and I would like for Mr. FORTENBERRY to continue.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, to elaborate on a concept that I talked about earlier is this idea of human dignity, and where does culture, ideals, learning, and the pursuit of truth come from?

It comes from this sacred space, if you will. And when that is subsumed to the larger interest of the state where you are compelled to act only within certain parameters, where you have to submit yourself to this bigger idea of economic nationalism, it can’t define itself because it doesn’t know where it is going, so it just churns and churns. It has to be more and more and more with environmental effects, effects on culture, and effects on relationships around the world.

One final point before I leave you. The head of the United States Agency for International Development, Mark Green, a former Member of Congress, former Ambassador to Tanzania, had this to say before us recently: China, they are predatory lenders.

Mr. YOHO. Yeah.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. They are acting, again, with their superpower status around the world, basically convicting leaders in tougher places around the world that are desperate for the right types of build-out and infrastructure to attack structural poverty and to help stop the types of injustice that are there when people simply do not have a system that allows them to reach their full potentiality.

They are being forced to mortgage off various assets they have, rather than being in a robust partnership and alignment with a superpower who is interested in perhaps the right type of development, sustainability and conservation, and to build out a just governance.

So countries are having to mortgage off ports and other pieces of infrastructure in order to get Chinese money. Again, there is a resource movement out of these places into the Chinese hands in order to feed, just continue to feed this economic nationalism which has no broader purpose.

Mr. YOHO. Right.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. And that is the issue. So China, maybe they will see this. Our charge here is to try to do some self-reflection ourselves about the nature of our system and what we have done.

But also, with the hand of friendship extended, say to the Chinese: A transactional relationship is not an architecture for the 21st century, for the thriving of civilization as the world gets smaller and smaller and more and more integrated.

This predatory lending in the world’s toughest places is a disastrous policy and completely inconsistent and contradictory to what a leader in the world, because of superpower status and economic power status, ought to be pursuing.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his time.

The gentleman brought up a good point about China. If you read about the Chinese Communist Party, the role of the individual is to serve the party. There is no higher entity in China other than Xi Jinping. Whereas in our government, we are so blessed in this country because we have a government that empowers their people. China suppresses their people, and that is why I want to talk about this.

This comes from a 2012 House Intelligence Committee report where they deemed Huawei and ZTE to be a U.S. national security threat. I have got the results of that right here. So we want to talk about that.

Huawei and ZTE, from 2012 until today, they have been a national security threat, but they have been able to do business in this country. This is something we need to bring to an end.

Other speakers brought up how universities were falling prey to China. We had our own university in Florida that Huawei came in and offered to set up a cybersecurity program, and they were going to fund it. And we said: No way. And so we got them to stop that.

If you just go to the headlines and you can hear how China is ramping up in intellectual property theft. They are paid to do this. This is something they want to go after, and they are doing it.

They rail against the United States on GMOs, yet, they go to Iowa and steal corn seeds so that they can grow GMO and be in competition with us.

The trade war with China and the problems with intellectual property rights, this is something that goes on every day. And as we buy cheap products made in China, this is benefiting them, not us. You can see the headlines here.

What I want to do is move on to Hong Kong with Xi Jinping. Back when Great Britain gave Hong Kong back to China in 1997, under the rulers of China at that time, there was a 50-year agreement that Hong Kong would be an autonomous, self-ruled nation. Twenty-two years into the program, China has put their heavy foot down. China has disrupted the autonomous rule of Hong Kong to the point where Xi Jinping had the nerve to say this on the world stage; as far as he was concerned, that agreement was null and void.

I want to bring that up because if we talk about if that agreement is null and void with Hong Kong, if we go back to the agreement of Taiwan under Nixon and Kissinger when they said that Taiwan is recognized as one country, two systems, and autonomous rule, if China and Xi Jinping can discount that agreement with Great Britain, does that give us the right to discount one country, two systems?

Is it time to recognize Taiwan as an independent country, a thriving democracy, our eleventh largest trading partner?

I want to bring up the South China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I will try to tighten this up.

Mr. Speaker, China, in the South China Sea, has started claiming property that is not theirs. It goes off to nine historical lines that come from antiquity, from 300 or 400 years ago. And they said: Well, we used to sail here, so this is our property.

So they started building these islands, and they went off the coast of the Philippines, and the Philippines took them to the Court of Arbitration in The Hague, and China lost the lawsuit. China ignored the ruling of The Hague, an international norm that we are all supposed to follow. They ignored it, and here you have the Spratly Islands that were little atolls sticking shallowly out of the water at low tide.

China has gone in there, and it is probably the biggest environmental insult to this world, where they have dredged up over 4,000 acres of land and they have built these land masses. I refuse to use the word "island" because that gives credibility to China.

What they have done is built—illegally, against the environment, against the ruling of international law—land masses in the East China Sea.

President Xi Jinping had the gump-tion to come here to the United States during President Obama's era in 2015, he went to the Rose Garden and claimed: We will never militarize these islands.

Yet, today, there are runways on there that can accommodate military planes. Our satellites show that there are military barracks, offensive and defensive weapons, and radar systems. I think it is pretty well militarized. They are doing that again and again and again. There are four islands they have done now.

Their goal is to go to the next chain of islands which is closer to our mainland. This is something the world has to stand up to. If not, they are going to keep continuing to march forward.

This is a photo of when they started, and this is more of the dredging. We don't have the one that shows them completed, but you can find it on the internet.

Now we are at the China of today. China has perfected 5G technology. China today has over 800 million CCTV cameras, closed-circuit television cameras, and they have put a system in place where they monitor their systems.

□ 2030

Today in China there are over 24 million citizens being monitored, and they

get issued by the Communist Party a good citizen score. But, Mr. Speaker, you don't know what your score is. So when you show up to travel, if your score is not high enough, then you get denied travel. If you go to borrow money or use your banking system, you are denied your banking system. Your kids can't go to the colleges you want them to go to because you are denied because you are a bad citizen. They have extended this and offered this to Russia; they have extended this and offered it to Maduro in Venezuela; and Iran wants this technology.

What better way for a despotic or authoritarian or Communist regime to control their citizens than the CC technology?

China uses technology to suppress their citizens to fall in line so that they serve the Communist Party. Our government empowers our people to reach their full potential.

I will close with this last thing, Mr. Speaker. China has interned over 2 million Muslim Chinese ethnic people, the Uyghurs, in what they call reeducation camps.

I want to show you this poster here, Mr. Speaker. This is a reeducation camp. That means they just go there because they want to learn new skills. This is what China is doing with the Uyghurs, the Muslim population. Not only that but they have armed crematoriums that are in place in these camps.

I've got to ask you, Mr. Speaker, when you have got a place that looks like a prison, I don't believe it is there for education. We went through World War II and the Holocaust. This Nation and all other nations said: "Never again."

Mr. Speaker, it is happening right now in China. We need to pivot away from China buying stuff, and we need to encourage our manufacturers to go anywhere but China.

I don't want a conflict with China. Nobody does. But if we stand up collectively together and we encourage manufacturers to go, then we can get China's attention via their pocketbook and we can change the course of the history of this world.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your patience, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the threat to religious liberty and religious toleration in the People's Republic of China is of grave concern. Over the past several years there has been an ever increasing intolerance of religious minorities.

Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees the freedom of religious belief. Yet the rights and safety of religious minorities in the country are very much in question.

China is the home to nearly 90 million Christians, and the country is anticipated to be home to the most Christians in the world by 2030. Yet, over the last several years, the percentage of persecution cases have risen year over year. Furthermore, the government has increasingly required churches to be state ap-

proved, churches have been razed and worshippers subjected to detainment, physical interrogation, and thought reform conditioning.

In the west, in Xinjiang Province, the United Nations has reported the government to be holding roughly one million Uyghurs without charge. Those who have escaped have testified to being repeatedly told that God did not exist and that they would only be fed after acknowledging the greatness of communism.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this Congress and our President to take appropriate actions to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the People's Republic of China.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, EQUALITY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 312, MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 987, MARKETING AND OUTREACH RESTORATION TO EMPOWER HEALTH EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. SCANLON (during the Special Order of Mr. YOHO), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-61) on the resolution (H. Res. 377) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 312) to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 987) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal exchange outreach and educational activities, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ELLEN TAUSCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a very special night for many of us. Tonight, we honor the memory of an extraordinary Representative, Ellen Tauscher, who served the Contra Costa area of California for almost two decades.

She died nearly 3 weeks ago. Tonight is our first opportunity to come to the floor and to pay tribute to her. I had the pleasure of knowing her before she became a Member of Congress and then during her years in Congress and I also had the unique opportunity to take her seat when she retired to become the Assistant Secretary of State.

So tonight, we pay tribute to this extraordinary woman. We do this in recognition of the work that she did on Wall Street, the work that she did here in the House of Representatives, and

her unyielding desire to reduce nuclear risks throughout the world.

To conduct the rest of tonight's tribute, I am turning to a woman who served with Ellen for all of the years that she was in Congress, a woman who is the leader of the Democratic Members of California, ZOE LOFGREN.

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ELLEN TAUSCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise really on behalf of the entire California delegation to honor our friend and former colleague, Ellen Tauscher, who passed away much too soon last month at the age of 67.

Ellen was a trailblazer in virtually everything she did in her remarkable life, and her passing is a great loss not only to California, not only to our country, but to the world.

I met Ellen when she ran for office, but I got to know her here. I recall so well Democratic Congresswomen—and there weren't as many of us at the time—all telling their own personal story and all of us being kind of surprised that we came from modest beginnings. Ellen was born in Newark, New Jersey. Her father was a shop steward at the UFCW, and he was at the Shop Rite store in Union City. Her mom, like my mom, was a secretary. But, she went on, because this country gave her an opportunity, she got a great education, and, of course, then, as will be said later tonight, became one of the youngest and one of the first women to become a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

She excelled in the issue of childcare. She wrote a book and did some technology about that before she ran for office.

But I ran into her in 1996 when I had been in Congress just a short time, and she decided and actually was recruited to run against a very conservative gentleman who had been in the House, but was really more conservative than his district, especially when it came to being pro-choice and the need to do something sensible about gun violence. I remember Ellen had a parade when she ran for office, and people were cheering her on. I thought: This woman is going to win this seat.

Sure enough, she did.

She was so popular and so different than the predecessor. People were talking about Tauscherism in the State of California, using her last name as an -ism. Really what it was was a very sensible, business-oriented approach, heavily interested in technology but wedded with good values that reflected her constituency: pro-choice, pro-education, pro-equal rights, pro-LGBTQ

rights, and that was what she brought to this body.

We remember her for the mark that she left on this institution. She continued to lead on the Armed Services Committee where she chaired the Strategic Forces Subcommittee and was a leading figure on arms control policy.

She also worked on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in a remarkable way. Not only was she a national leader on environmentally sustainable transportation policy, as a founding member of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Caucus, she also delivered for her district. It really mattered to her that she got a widening of the Sunol Grade on 680 which made a difference, not only for her district but for mine, as people were trying to commute between the two regions.

She got a fourth bore for the Caldecott Tunnel so that commuters could get around. She played a leadership role securing funding for the BART extension to the San Francisco Airport and her work to get the Army Corps to fund the dredging of the Port of Oakland.

I am particularly excited by the work we did together for the Lawrence Livermore National Lab as well as the Sandia Lab. She was so interested in the National Ignition Facility. She saved the funding, she was there at the groundbreaking, she was there when we opened the facility, and she really believed that the science that was going on there would change the world, and I still believe that it will.

But here in the House I think all of us will remember her as the presiding officer. Ellen was completely unflappable. I can remember when we had the worst, most contentious issues, we knew it would be okay because Ellen would take the dais and she would preside. She would help people calm down, focus on the disagreements, and adhere to the rules of the House. Nothing could shake her ability to preside in a wise, thoughtful, and very calm way over the House of Representatives.

We had such fun with her. Women Members went out to dinner with her and shared stories. She never put up with nonsense. She was very matter of fact. She had a wicked sense of humor, but she was someone with tremendous integrity. Of course, as we know, that integrity, expertise, and vision was recognized when President Obama nominated her to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. She was confirmed and left the House.

She did important things in that office. She helped negotiate the New START Treaty with the Russian Federation—the first agreement signed with Russia in nearly 20 years—and it was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

After leaving the Department of State, she continued to make contributions. She served on the Board of Regents for the University of California.

She continued to make sure that the science at Lawrence Livermore National Lab was protected and also at Los Alamos. She continued in her efforts to make sure that the cutting edge was always protected as a member of the Board of Advisors of SpaceX, eHealth, and other important technology businesses.

These achievements really don't do justice to Ellen's legacy. I know from our many good times talking with her, her funny irreverence and her smart insight, the one thing that she loved more than anything else on this Earth was her wonderful daughter, Katherine, who I hope is watching tonight. We loved Ellen Tauscher, and she loved Katherine.

Not every Member who planned to be here this evening was able to. We will make sure that all of the statements are entered into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of the California delegation and a good friend of Ellen's for yielding.

Ellen was one of my closest friends in the Congress of the United States. I think Ellen and I voted the same about almost every time the lights were turned on and the votes were requested.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman LOFGREN and the California delegation for organizing this tribute.

I rise to join in remembering a dear, dear friend, an outstanding colleague, and a respected public servant.

In recent days, I have been asked to describe Ellen. Words that come to mind are extraordinarily accomplished, stateswoman, a diplomat, an expert in our Nation's defense as a member of the Armed Services Committee and as a member of the State Department, and a politician in the best sense of the word. Her skill in rallying disparate interests behind a common objective was, I think, almost unmatched.

Ms. LOFGREN referred to her as presiding. She was a Democrat presiding in a House in which all respected her, which is why she was so effective. She would look to the Republican side of the aisle, and she would tap the gavel. They would know she knew what was right, and they did not want to cross her.

Her determination not to be swayed from the principles to which she always remained true was a hallmark of Ellen Tauscher. Many in the House and in our country will remember Ellen for having been one of the first women, as has been pointed out, on the New York Stock Exchange at the age of 25.

I can imagine there were a lot of old bulls on Wall Street who said, what is that young woman, that young, blonde, beautiful woman doing sitting on the Stock Exchange, a seat on the Stock Exchange?

And the answer to that question: Damn well—like everything she did.

Many will remember her for the 13 years she represented California in the Congress and for her very successful tenure as a top arms control negotiator with the Russians. But I will remember her as one of my dearest and closest friends in the House.

I will never forget Ellen's kindness, sincerity, advice, counsel, and loyalty. I will never forget her honesty and her intellect. Neither will I forget Ellen's determination to see each of us here, regardless of our party or background, as a true colleague in service.

That is how she was able to be so successful as a legislator.

□ 2045

As chairwoman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, she was respected not only as a presiding officer but also for the depth of her knowledge as it related to our national security and for the fact that she was always genuine.

You knew that Ellen Tauscher was not taking a position for show. She was taking it because she believed deeply that it was in the best interest of our country.

Because of her work on the Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee and extraordinary efforts as a diplomat, Americans are safer today.

Ellen worked tirelessly during the Obama administration to negotiate the New START Treaty, which reduced American and Russian nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in more than half a century. In that pursuit, she drew on the same indomitable nature, attention to detail, and determination to achieve results that made her so successful in business, in the Congress, and as a campaigner for Senator FEINSTEIN.

She chaired Senator FEINSTEIN's first two campaigns for the United States Senate, and DIANNE FEINSTEIN was one of her closest friends.

I join the Senator from California in expressing my deep sadness at the loss of my dear friend, and I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have said, very rightly, that, with Ellen's passing, this institution has lost one of its most outstanding former Members.

My thoughts are with Katherine, who, as ZOE LOFGREN said, she adored. We may have been her good friends, but we were a far-back second to Katherine, a beautiful young woman in her own right, a wonderful athlete, and like her mother, bright, ambitious, fair, and loving.

We send our sympathy to her entire family. May Ellen's memory be an inspiration to all of us in this House to serve in the way she served: with honor, with humility—humility but also great self-confidence—and with determination to see every vote as an opportunity to do right by those who sent us here.

That is what Ellen did every day during her tenure.

I thank Ellen for her service. I thank her for her friendship. I thank her for making America better. We miss her.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, all of us knew Ellen in a different way, but those who served with her on the Armed Services Committee knew her work there, so I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from California, SUSAN DAVIS, who served not only in the delegation with Ellen but also on the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening and to have a chance to talk about my friend and my colleague, Ellen Tauscher.

Ellen, as we are all hearing, was really a trailblazer. She was a trailblazer, a businesswoman. She was a single mom, a philanthropist, a diplomat, a mentor, and for so many of us, a dear friend.

If you were a woman in California politics in the last three decades, Ellen probably had a significant impact on your life. She showed us all that kindness and charity can go with strength and wit.

We all have personal experience with Ellen. I actually met Ellen about 1996, I think it was. We happened to be at a National Women's Political Caucus meeting.

What was funny about that is that we kind of caught one another's eye. We have heard people talk about no-nonsense Ellen. Something was going on. We were a little impatient, and we kind of both looked at each other like: Is this really what we came for?

That was the start of a friendship.

When she learned later that I was considering running for Congress, she got in touch with me. She said: If you are coming to D.C., then I have a place for you to stay. Please stay at my house, and let's have a chance to talk, sit down and really get to know one another.

That was pretty cool because, as I said, it had just been a small encounter that we had had sometime before.

So we sat at her dinner table, and I remember asking her about what she was doing and what she was learning in Congress. She told me about the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, and I was really very impressed with that because the thought of working on arms control just seemed like, first, a fantasy and, then, just a really hard thing to do.

She said that one of the reasons that she was interested in doing that, aside from the fact that she lived so close to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and she had a real interest in having them be a premier lab for much of the testing in the future, was she felt that she wanted to show that women could do that job.

Of course, we knew that she was the one who was capable to do that and probably was the first woman to have served on that committee.

I remember, too, at her table, just talking about her daughter, Katherine, and how proud she was of Katherine,

all her hopes and dreams for her, and how tough it was being a mom and also wanting to make her schedule work for her daughter.

Then, of course, as a colleague on HASC, we were both on the committee when our country faced the great tragedy of 9/11, and just being able to respond to so many of the issues around that.

I always went to Ellen when we had a chance to talk about what we either had to vote on or what we were facing on the committee. Sometimes I would share with her: I am not sure what to do in this instance.

She would look me straight in the eye, as she would always—and you can tell in her eyes here—with that kind of wry smile. She would say: SUSAN, you are going to do the right thing.

Honestly, it gave me the confidence to do the right thing, and I knew that Ellen was going to do that as well.

A number of years into her term and the great job that she did here presiding in the House, at the request of President Clinton, she became and was able to be interviewed for and go before the Senate as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, as people have mentioned.

In that role, she traveled extensively and was really the face of our country in those negotiations with the Russians. Quite honestly, from the discussions that I had with Ellen, I think they didn't know what to make of her because she was so direct and so strong. She wouldn't take anybody's nonsense in that role.

We were all so proud of her, knowing what she was able to accomplish, and people have referred to that as well.

I want to be mindful here of the role that she played on nuclear weapons policy, how she came at that, and how she felt it was so important for a woman to be in that position someday.

She didn't know that she was going to be the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. I don't think she even thought that was a possibility at one time, but she wanted to be ready. She wanted to be prepared. That is what she did so much of her life.

Following a number of years facing cancer, being a survivor and all that she went through with the best attitude in the world, even in recent months, she was still speaking before the Armed Services Committee on nuclear weapons policy.

Her work on nuclear security made this world measurably safer and will have a lasting impact on future generations.

We relied so much on her knowledge and her counsel as we considered the most sobering aspect of national security: weapons with the power to destroy life as we know it on this planet. We looked to Ellen for that.

While her work was critically important, always, for Ellen, her family came first. So our thoughts today are with her daughter, Katherine, everyone

who was close to her in her community, and those she worked with throughout this world. Our thoughts are with all of them, and our blessings go with that.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, all of us, as I said, knew Ellen in different ways. I was surprised that the gentlewoman from Florida probably knew Ellen Tauscher longer than anyone else in this body, and I am so pleased to recognize DONNA SHALALA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA).

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the California delegation for giving me this opportunity.

I met Ellen Tauscher in the 1980s when I was the director of the American Stock Exchange and she was an officer. She was brilliant, and she had a heart of gold.

We worked together again in the 1990s when she was elected to Congress. She hadn't changed. She could still focus, razor sharp, on any issue.

She was a classic citizen legislator. She had had a previous extraordinary career in finance and then committed herself to public service. All of us who knew and worked and played with her loved her. Actually, we had a date this month for dinner at her favorite Georgetown restaurant.

She will be missed as a kind, warm, and wonderful friend, as a classy colleague. She will be remembered as a patriot who loved her country and served it well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, talking about how we each knew Ellen in different ways, she was very active in the New Democrat Coalition. We have someone who served with her as one of her cohorts, as a New Democrat who, I believe, chaired it with her at one time. I am happy to recognize RON KIND.

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California, first of all, for recognizing me tonight but also for securing this Special Order to honor one of our great friends and great colleagues in this institution, Ellen Tauscher. I also thank JOHN GARAMENDI for helping to organize tonight's Special Order as well.

Ellen was a true patriot. She was a great American, someone who loved the congressional district that allowed her to represent them, loved her home State, and loved our country even more.

I got to know Ellen as a member of the incoming class of 1997. We were both present at the creation of the New Democrat Coalition. It didn't exist back then, until we first joined. Then, with the help of Cal Dooley, another California Representative; Tim Roemer; Jim Moran; and ADAM SMITH, who is now chairing the Armed Services Committee and was also one of the founding Members, we helped form the New Democrat Coalition, where Ellen really excelled in her leadership. It was

fun getting to work with her on such a personal level.

The committees to which she was assigned were a perfect fit for her and for the district and State she represented: the Armed Services Committee, where she developed such great expertise and knowledge on national security issues, but especially with the arms control issue that she became world renowned over; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, with all of the work that she did to help rebuild America the way it should be, but especially the infrastructure projects that were so crucial to her area of California that she would fight doggedly over on that committee; and then her work on the Science Committee, which really fit in well with her leadership role with the New Democrat Coalition.

The New Dems were a group of Members here in the Democratic Caucus who were more moderate, more pragmatic. To Ellen, being moderate and pragmatic wasn't an ideology; it was a way of life, a way of being able to get things done in an institution where it is sometimes very difficult to get things accomplished.

She was always looking to find those bipartisan coalitions in order to get things across the finish line, being respectful and listening, especially to our colleagues across the aisle, knowing that there was common ground to be had that we could work on together in order to represent the interests that she represented in California but all our interests here in this country.

On the Science Committee, she was devoted, as she was with the New Democrat Coalition, to making sure that our country remained the most innovative, competitive, and creative nation in the world, especially at a time of great technological change.

She came in with me in the late 1990s during the information revolution that was taking place, the dot-com era, with, of course, a tremendous impact in California, as it had throughout the rest of the country, being able to wrap our arms around that, understanding the vast implications that this was going to have on American competitiveness abroad. How to stay on that cutting edge of new discovery in the global information technology economy while also making sure that none of our citizens were left behind with that rapid change and our role in that global economy, that was something Ellen was deeply devoted to, something that she took up as chair of the New Democrat Coalition over two terms, making sure that we were spending time to understand the policy implications of the high-tech revolution, artificial intelligence, robotics, and the role our country can play in advancing that.

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Again, how can we best empower all Americans so that they can be full participants of that global economy and rapid change? We haven't always done a good job at that, quite frankly.

I think that is one of the reasons there is so much consternation and even anger back home, because many people feel that they haven't been empowered with the skills they need to be full participants and to be successful in this highly charged economy.

That was something that Ellen recognized and was devoted to trying to find answers to when she showed up at work every day.

It was a great honor to be able to serve with her in that coalition and to later assume the chair position from her in order to continue to build it.

I know Ellen was particularly proud of last fall's election, the fact that 41 of the new Democratic Members who joined Congress decided to join the New Democrat Coalition, putting our number up to 101, which was unfathomable at the time we were starting the coalition in the late 1990s, let alone just in recent years.

It shows that the New Dems have a very important role to play, as Ellen recognized, in helping to shape the agenda and the policies that will make sense and work for the people back home.

I appreciated being able to work closely with her in that capacity. I learned a lot from the skills that she brought, with her varied interests and backgrounds that she had before Congress. As was mentioned earlier, she was one of the first women to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, a very accomplished business person herself.

I think that is, in a lot of ways, where she derived her political pragmatism from, being able to get things done, and the role that she played in the respective committees, in the coalition, and in the friendships and partnerships that she was able to form so successfully here in Congress.

She wasn't one who took no for an answer. She always felt that there was a path to success in whatever endeavor she performed. That is why it made perfect sense that, in the first Obama term, he, along with Secretary Clinton, appointed her for Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. It was perfect for her personal background and portfolio, and she became the negotiating face of America when she was out negotiating the arms control treaties.

Everyone knew, with great confidence, that when Ellen entered that negotiating room, there would be no one more prepared, no one who had done their homework more than she.

It even went beyond the intricacies and the complexities of arms control and nuclear reduction. It was also getting to understand and appreciate where the negotiators across the table were coming from, the political constituencies that they had to answer to back home.

With her own political background, I think she brought that bigger perspective to these negotiations. Because of that, the success that she was able to

achieve on behalf of our country was something that she was able to achieve with her negotiating counterparts from across the table. That is a skill that we need to cherish and recognize more, quite frankly, in our various agencies throughout government.

When she stepped down from that position, she immediately was sworn in as Special Envoy for Strategic Stability and Missile Defense at the State Department. It was just the next iteration of that skill set that she brought in the course of these negotiations.

She represented us so very, very well. We were all so proud of her, those of us who had gotten to know her throughout the years, seeing what she was able to accomplish in her post-Congress career, still finding a way to serve her Nation in a different capacity.

She will be deeply missed. She was loved by those who knew her in this institution.

Of course, she had a daughter, Katherine, whom she adored above anyone else. As much fun as it was serving with Ellen when we came in, in 1997, and throughout the years, it was perhaps as much fun watching Katherine grow up in our midst, seeing her become such the accomplished and beautiful young woman that she is today. Ellen was so proud of that.

On behalf of the Class of 1997, on behalf of the New Democrat Coalition, we thank Katherine and the entire Tauscher family for sharing Ellen with us through these years of her public service, first in Congress and then during the Obama administration.

She was a great friend, great colleague, great Representative for her district in California. More importantly, she was a great American and a great patriot who believed in the future of our country.

She will be sorely missed but never forgotten, the accomplishments that she was able to achieve throughout her distinguished career here and throughout her entire life.

May God bless her and take her into His care.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the New Dems, and I would like to recognize the current New Dem chair. I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for organizing today's Special Order to celebrate the life of Ellen Tauscher.

I didn't serve with Ellen. I had the opportunity to meet her and enjoyed that, and I now have the distinct honor of serving in a role that she held, not just previously but exceptionally, as chair of the New Democrat Coalition.

As my friend from Wisconsin said, the New Dems is made up of forward-

thinking, pro-growth, pro-innovative, and fiscally responsible Democrats. This Congress, we have 101 members, making us now the largest ideological caucus in the House. It is the largest the coalition has ever been.

It is safe to say, and it is certainly not hyperbole to say, that this coalition would not be what it is if it wasn't for Ellen Tauscher. The coalition came into existence with the election of Ellen Tauscher and several other current and former colleagues back in 1996.

Shortly after she took office, Peter Beinart wrote a profile piece about Ellen and the New Democrats in Time magazine. In it, Beinart describes the early days of a growing New Democrat Coalition that represented predominantly suburban districts across the country. He declared the Democratic center was moving toward what he called Tauscherism, a phrase that stuck around to describe the socially progressive, fiscally moderate, pro-business focus that were many of the policies New Democrats advocated not just then but now as well.

Ellen quickly gained respect, both in the coalition and within the broader Caucus. She was elected to the serve as the New Dem chair in 2005 and served in that position until 2009 when she left Congress to serve as Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs at the State Department.

As chair, Ellen made a consequential impact on the direction of the New Democrat Coalition. Under her chairmanship, the coalition fought for a forward-looking innovation agenda, strong national defense, and more effective government.

Ellen also rose in leadership positions on the Armed Services Committee, chairing the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. She worked closely with our leadership when Democrats took the majority in 2007, to help shepherd landmark legislation through the Congress.

Those who knew her well, and you have heard from many of them tonight, remember her tenacity, her creativity, and her patriotism. Since her passing, we have heard from former colleagues and friends about the extraordinary impact that Ellen made on their lives and on them.

They say the measure of a person's life is the impact they have on others. From this measurement alone, it is very clear that Ellen lived a life of purpose. We are so thankful for the time that she spent here, for the time she spent blazing a trail for the New Democrat Coalition.

We are absolutely keeping Ellen's daughter, Katherine, and the entire Tauscher family in our thoughts and

prayers this month as we celebrate her extraordinary life and her extraordinary legacy.

Again, I thank our colleague from California for organizing this Special Order in honor of Ellen's life.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think so many of us in the House could think of the different things we did with Ellen. As I was listening, I was remembering her capacity to reach agreement. She was a legislator, and whether it was reaching across the aisle or disagreements even within the Democratic Party, she was always trying to come up with a solution that would make the country better.

I remember a disagreement we had. We were good friends, but we had a disagreement on a legislative issue. There was a disagreement in the Democratic Party, and we had a big meeting. Rather than let people fight, we stood in front of the group and we actually drafted the compromise that would move us forward in the course of about 20 minutes. It was an extraordinary experience for both of us and especially for the new Members who had never seen legislators actually legislating themselves.

I know that there are people throughout the House who have such memories, and I hope that they will be able to put them into the RECORD, keeping Katherine and the entire Tauscher family in their prayers.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and May 15 on account of district business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 299

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2019–2024	2019–2029
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN THE DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	–10	–17	38	63	59	62	63	65	68	–469	135	–75

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drugs Costs Act (Rules Committee Print 116–14), for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 987 (RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–14)

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2019–2024	2019–2029
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN THE DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects	0	–79	–177	–167	–38	59	83	195	269	297	454	–403	895

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1060, the BUILD Act, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1313, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1003. A letter from the Deputy Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of violations of the Antideficiency Act: Department of the Navy (Naval Supply Systems Command N 17-01), pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1004. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter issuing a travel restriction on senior Department of Defense officials’ travel to Afghanistan from May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1005. A letter from the Management Analyst, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Regulations Affecting Military Reservations [Docket ID: USA-2018-HQ-0015] (RIN: 0702-AA95) received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1006. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Medicaid Program; Reassignment of Medicaid Provider Claims [CMS-2413-F] (RIN: 0938-AT61) received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1007. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting a report titled “Review of Recent Cost-Benefit Studies Related to Net Metering and Distributed Solar”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1008. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Amendments to Federal Implementation Plan for Managing Air Emissions from True Minor Sources in Indian

Country in the Oil and Natural Gas Production and Natural Gas Processing Segments of the Oil and Natural Gas Sector [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0606; FRL-9993-43-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT96) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1009. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Lake Country Sulfur Dioxide Non-attainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0224; FRL-9993-54-Region 5] received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1010. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s regulatory guide — Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants [Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 5] received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1011. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s FY 2018 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1012. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, USCIS, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary rule — Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2019 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program [CIS No.: 2646-19; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2019-0008] (RIN: 1615-AC38) received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1013. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Annual Report on Disability-Related Air

Travel Complaints received During Calendar Year 2017, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Sec. 41705(c)(3); Public Law 103-272, Sec. 41705(c)(3) (as added by Public Law 106-181, Sec. 707(a)(3)); (114 Stat. 158); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1014. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Louisville, KY [Docket Number: USCG-2018-0168] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1015. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Markers 99.3 to 100.3 Above Head of Passes, New Orleans, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2018-1108] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1016. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Safe Harbor for Trades of Player Contracts and Draft Picks (Revenue Procedure 2019-18) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1017. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Rulings and determinations letter (Revenue Procedure 2019-22) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1018. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Request for Comments on Necessary Clarifications to Normalization Requirements for Excess Tax Reserves Resulting from the Corporate Tax Rate Decrease [Notice 2019-33] received May 10, 2019, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1019. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Cash distributions in redemption of stock of former S corporations during the post-termination transition period (Revenue Ruling 2019-13) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1020. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2018 Section 45K(d)(2)(C) Reference Price [Notice 2019-28] received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1021. A letter from the Director, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Request for Comments on Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration [Notice 2019-32] received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1022. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Limited Expansion of the Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Plans (Revenue Procedure 2019-20) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1023. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Regulation To Require Drug Pricing Transparency [CMS-4187-F] (RIN: 0938-AT87) received May 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

1024. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's direct final rule — Conservation of Antarctic Animals and Plants (RIN: 3145-AA59) received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Natural Resources.

1025. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Changes to the Medicare Claims and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Determination Appeals Procedures [CMS-4174-F] (RIN: 0938-AT27) received May 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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:

Mrs. LOWEY: Committee on Appropriations. Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 (Rept. 116-59). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 389. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay rewards under an asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures in the United States and abroad; with an amendment (Rept. 116-60). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 377. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 312) to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 987) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities (Rept. 116-61). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SABLON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BOST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HECK, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MAST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 2689. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 2690. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 2691. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the man-

ner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 2692. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of broadband conduit installation in certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 2693. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 2694. A bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 2695. A bill to rename the Success Dam in Tulare County, California, as the Richard L. Schafer Dam; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 2696. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 2697. A bill to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 2698. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr.

KEATING, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 2699. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Armed Services, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. LONG, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 2700. A bill to incentivize low-cost drug options and generic competition, and to provide extensions for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. RYAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2701. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to support the access of marginalized youth to sexual health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 2702. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to eliminate barriers to providing child welfare services for children and youth in need, to provide additional resources to implement programmatic changes necessary to meet the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2703. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the admissibility and deportability of aliens acting in accordance with State and foreign marijuana laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 2704. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for transfers of the renewable electricity production credit and the energy credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 2705. A bill to establish a Water Infrastructure Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy

and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 2706. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to clarify that charitable organization officials may receive food donations from schools under the food donation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CHENEY (for herself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 2707. A bill to limit funding for any extension of the New START Treaty or any successor agreement unless the agreement includes the People's Republic of China and covers all strategic and non-strategic nuclear forces of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 2708. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its

commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PASCARELLI):

H.R. 2709. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify the definition of firefighter for the purposes of the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefits Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH):

H.R. 2710. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to innovative new medical devices furnished to individuals with end stage renal disease under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a new device add-on payment adjustment under such part; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 2711. A bill to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to reduce and prevent gas waste and to enhance gas measuring and reporting, to codify a final rule of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding certain emission standards for the oil and natural gas sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2712. A bill to require that purchases of agricultural commodities made by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Food Purchase and Distribution Program be from domestically owned enterprises, and other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 2713. A bill to prohibit the issuance of F or J visas to researchers affiliated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBBS (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 2714. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax, or refund of tax, for certain Federal insurance taxes for employees who are members of religious faiths which oppose participation in such insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma):

H.R. 2715. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for State approval and implementation of specified waivers under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2716. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to not apply changes under Public Law 115-97 pertaining to the kiddie tax to children receiving certain military

survivor benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 2717. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the San Felipe Pueblo certain Federal land in Sandoval County, New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 2718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include green infrastructure bonds in the definition of qualified private activity bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 2719. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Stamp Out Elder Abuse Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ADAMS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RYAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 2720. A bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion of lifelong sexual health and healthy relationships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN):

H.R. 2721. A bill to establish a grant program within the Department of Labor to support the creation, implementation, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in cybersecurity; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 2722. A bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. HILL of California):

H.R. 2723. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Multimodal

Freight Funding Formula Program and a National Freight Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program to improve the efficiency and reliability of freight movement in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 2724. A bill to clarify the requirements of authorized representatives under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2725. A bill to provide duty-free treatment for the sale of used yachts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2726. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on Amtrak trains; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 2727. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve information sharing between the Department of Defense and designated relatives and friends of members of the Armed Forces regarding the experiences and challenges of military service, particularly during and after overseas deployments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BYRNE, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 2728. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. GARCÍA of Texas):

H.R. 2729. A bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 2730. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2731. A bill to provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. MCADAMS):

H.R. 2732. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require warning labels for prescription opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GALLEGGO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. COLE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. BASS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. STANTON, Mr. COOK, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 2733. A bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 2734. A bill to require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 2735. A bill to amend section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, to require that the annual budget submissions of the Presidents include the total dollar amount requested for intelligence or intelligence related activities of each element of the Government engaged in such activities; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 2736. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the estate of a deceased veteran may receive certain accrued benefits upon the death of the veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H. Con. Res. 38. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) continues to make an invaluable contribution to United States and international security, and noting former Senator Richard G. Lugar's indispensable contributions to international security and reducing nuclear weapons-related risks; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Mr. BOST):

H. Res. 378. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Arthur "Art" Simon; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. YOHO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 379. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July as "American Grown Flower Month"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H. Res. 380. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 13

through May 20, 2019, as Infrastructure Week; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H. Res. 381. A resolution recognizing the REALTORS Land Institute on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WATKINS (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. ESTES):

H. Res. 382. A resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of the landmark decision of the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483 (1954)); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2737. A bill for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2738. A bill for the relief of Ravidath Lawrence Ragbir; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 2689.
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. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 2690.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 2691.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 2692.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut

H.R. 2693.
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. NADLER:

H.R. 2694.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution and section 5 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 2695.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 2696.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 1

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 2697.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 1

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 2698.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 2699.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2700.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive. Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 2701.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 2702.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2703.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2704.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2705.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 2706.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and

proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. CHENEY:

H.R. 2707.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2708.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2709.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2710.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 2711.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 2712.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8, US Constitution

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 2713.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 2714.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2715.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2716.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 2717.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 2718.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 2719.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution [Page H9431]

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2720.
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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 2721.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises” in order to “provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.”

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 2722.

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

This proposal is introduced pursuant to Article I, Section 4.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 2723.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 2724.

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

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

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2725.

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

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

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2726.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2727.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 2728.

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

As described in Article 1, Section 1, “all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare” of Americans. In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96-88), Congress declared that “the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively.” The Department of Education’s mission is to “promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.”

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2729.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2730.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 2731.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 2732.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 2733.

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

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 2734.

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 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2735.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof . . .

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 2736.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2737.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to “establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.” The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954), “that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and their right to remain here] is entrusted exclusively to Congress has become about as firmly embedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government.” And, as the Court found in *Kleindienst v. Mandel*, 408 U.S. 753, 766 (1972) (quoting *Boutillier v. INS*, 387 U.S. 118, 123 (1967)), “[t]he Court without exception has sustained Congress’ plenary power to make rules for the admission of aliens and to exclude those who possess those characteristics which Congress has forbidden.”

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2738.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

H.R. 117: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 141: Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 158: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 205: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 230: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 257: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 285: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 295: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 296: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 309: Mr. HIMES and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 366: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 372: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 375: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 383: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 389: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 500: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 510: Ms. OMAR, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 535: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 553: Ms. FRANKEL, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 555: Ms. SEVELL of Alabama, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 586: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BABIN, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 613: Ms. OMAR and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 647: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 662: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 693: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 720: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 728: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 748: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mrs. MILLER.

H.R. 767: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 792: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 801: Mr. CASE and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 806: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 816: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 860: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 873: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. STEWART, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 874: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 884: Mr. HIMES and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 919: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 958: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 961: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1004: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1005: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 1019: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 1023: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1025: Ms. SHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1032: Mr. CROW, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1035: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1037: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1043: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. COMER.

H.R. 1044: Mr. KIM, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1058: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1073: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1086: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 25: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 95: Mr. STANTON and Ms. OMAR.

- H.R. 1097: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1133: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. TTUS.
H.R. 1140: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. KÜSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1146: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1154: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 1156: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1163: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 1169: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1173: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1175: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DUNN, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1199: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1200: Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1210: Ms. MOORE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1220: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1224: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1225: Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1228: Mr. STAUBER and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 1236: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 1243: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1256: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COOK.
H.R. 1309: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1313: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1325: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 1327: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 1342: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 1351: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1360: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1374: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 1379: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1380: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1437: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1450: Mr. SOTO and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1472: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1474: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 1507: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1511: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1521: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1530: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1551: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 1553: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1554: Mr. BUDD and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 1556: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 1592: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1595: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1599: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1603: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 1620: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 1629: Mr. KIM, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. REED.
H.R. 1646: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1666: Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 1671: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1692: Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1696: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. MCADAMS.
H.R. 1702: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 1721: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1723: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1730: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1748: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1766: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 1767: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 1775: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 1777: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1781: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 1786: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1789: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1830: Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1837: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1854: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KINZINGER.
H.R. 1857: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1865: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1869: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 1878: Ms. WATERS and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1890: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 1892: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1896: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1897: Mr. COHEN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1911: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1912: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1919: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 1941: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1948: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. COOK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Ms. KÜSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. BRINDISI.
H.R. 1959: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1962: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1965: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1979: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1982: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1999: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2023: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 2037: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2051: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 2056: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASE, and Ms. KÜSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2066: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2079: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2088: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2100: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2117: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2136: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2142: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2146: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2148: Mr. SERRANO, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2149: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 2150: Mr. TONKO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GIANFORTE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 2164: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 2178: Mr. MAST, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 2200: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2201: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2202: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 2203: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 2215: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2218: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2219: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2222: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2226: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 2235: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2236: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2278: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2294: Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 2313: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2314: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 2316: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 2322: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 2328: Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 2336: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. KIND, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2339: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 2340: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2349: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2353: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2354: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2355: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2379: Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 2382: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. COOK, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. KIM.
H.R. 2405: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 2410: Mr. CLAY and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2411: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2412: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2415: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HECK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2420: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 2422: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2433: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CASE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2435: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. VELA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2441: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 2443: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2448: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

- H.R. 2449: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 2458: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 2460: Mr. BUCSHON.
 H.R. 2466: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CLAY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 2468: Ms. NORTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COX of California, Ms. WILD, and Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 2474: Mr. VELA, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. GOMEZ.
 H.R. 2476: Mr. MAST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 2480: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
 H.R. 2481: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. MAST, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. BERA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. COLE, Ms. CHENEY, and Mrs. CRAIG.
 H.R. 2489: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. OMAR, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 2493: Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 2504: Mr. COX of California.
 H.R. 2509: Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 2512: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. WALTZ.
 H.R. 2533: Mr. KIM.
 H.R. 2550: Ms. WATERS and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 2557: Mr. KIM, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 2560: Mr. BURCHETT.
 H.R. 2561: Mrs. TORRES of California.
 H.R. 2576: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 2577: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 2581: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 2585: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
 H.R. 2591: Mr. ROUDA.
 H.R. 2597: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 2599: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 2602: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2609: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.
 H.R. 2617: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. TURNER.
 H.R. 2620: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 2635: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2637: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SOTO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 2644: Mr. BURGESS.
 H.R. 2648: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. HAALAND, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2662: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 2671: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2674: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. SUOZZI.
 H.R. 2687: Mrs. DINGELL and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.J. Res. 7: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.J. Res. 57: Mr. PHILLIPS and Ms. WILD.
 H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mr. MEUSER.
 H. Con. Res. 37: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H. Res. 23: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MAST, and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H. Res. 33: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. WILD, and Ms. HAALAND.
 H. Res. 54: Ms. CHENEY, Mr. MAST, and Ms. WILD.
 H. Res. 60: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H. Res. 78: Mr. ROUDA.
 H. Res. 138: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H. Res. 152: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H. Res. 174: Mr. SUOZZI.
 H. Res. 189: Mr. GUEST, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. CASE.
 H. Res. 231: Mr. CROW and Mr. LEVIN of California.
 H. Res. 233: Ms. OMAR.
 H. Res. 255: Mrs. BUSTOS.
 H. Res. 269: Mr. WALTZ.
 H. Res. 323: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H. Res. 325: Ms. OMAR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. PALLONE.
 H. Res. 326: Mr. RUSH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. SCHRIER.
 H. Res. 338: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H. Res. 340: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Res. 364: Ms. PORTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 368: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. WATERS.
 H. Res. 371: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. HASTINGS.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O mighty God, our gracious King, we thank You that Your power is still active in our Nation and world. Forgive us when we forget that You continue to rule Your universe. Lord, we are grateful for the confidence You have given us that You hear and answer our prayers. Use the Members of this body as ambassadors of reconciliation. Help them to create laws that will bring wholeness to a fragmented nation and world. Lord, infuse them with a spirit of contemplative stillness so that they will find joy in righteousness, justice, and integrity.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Truncale nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, to commemorate this year's National Police Week, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators on a resolution to honor these people who lost their lives in order to protect our lives. The men and women of law enforcement make sacrifices every day to protect their families and fellow citizens. We are indebted to their dedication.

I want to express my appreciation for each and every police officer, firefighter, first responder, and other law enforcement officers who work diligently to protect our friends and families.

All of those visiting Washington this week to commemorate National Police Week, if you get a chance to see them on the streets of Washington, DC, thank them for their service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning's New York Times contained a stunning report that President Trump's top national security aid had been presented with a plan that would "send as many as 120,000 troops to the Middle East should Iran attack American forces or accelerate work on nuclear weapons"—120,000 American troops in the Middle East. This report is completely baffling and incredibly alarming.

What is the strategy here? The administration just began a maximum pressure campaign of sanctions against Iran to squeeze its economy. Doesn't it make sense to see if your policy is working before preparing for potential troop deployments, particularly in such large numbers? Six months ago the President was trying to pull U.S. forces out of the Middle East entirely, against the advice of many in our defense and diplomatic communities. Now his national security team is reviewing plans for war?

Meanwhile, President Trump has not laid out what his plans are, what his long-term strategy in the Middle East is, or even given a speech about Iran. So why on Earth are his advisers discussing plans to entrench U.S. ground troops in the Middle East for who knows how long? It seems that hardliners in the administration are pushing the conversation in a very dangerous direction, and I am very concerned.

U.S. foreign policy depends upon the stable execution of a consistent policy, but all too often the Trump administration has seemed capable of neither stability nor consistency. The erratic behavior of the President and the chaos he instills in his administration has led to numerous blunders at home and abroad. We should all hope that this report is just that—another blunder—and not the beginnings of a rush by the President's hawkish advisers to heighten military tensions with Iran.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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There are many questions for the President, but here are two. Why do we need more troops in the Iran area right now? Why? And why such a large number—120,000, which is as many as the total number of troops we have had in Iraq at significant times.

PUERTO RICO

Now, there are a lot of Americans still waiting at this point for Puerto Rico and the disaster bill. A lot of Americans are still waiting for the Senate to put politics aside and help them piece their lives back together from natural disasters last year, from wildfires to floods, from tornadoes to hurricanes. Because of climate change, our weather is different—considerably different—and Americans are paying the price. We are also paying the price for not taking leadership on climate. But now I am here to discuss this relief package. Throughout our discussions here in Congress about the relief package, Democrats have maintained that it must include relief for all Americans affected by disasters last year, not just those Americans who live in the West and Midwest or South, but also the 3 million citizens living in Puerto Rico. It is not a zero-sum game. It is not that if you help Puerto Rico you would not be helping Florida or Iowa. You can help them all, and that is what Americans have always done.

But there is some good news. I must say that I am encouraged that Republicans are starting to realize that we cannot leave Puerto Rico out. It may not have happened had Democrats not insisted all along that Puerto Rico be included, but our Republican friends are beginning to realize that if Puerto Rico is not in the package, no package will pass. As for their intransigence and obeisance to President Trump, when he came in out of the clear blue one day and bollixed up the package that had been carefully worked out between the Democrats and Republicans by insisting that no aid to Puerto Rico be in the package, it is clear to our Republican friends that is not working, and I am encouraged that Republicans have moved into our direction when it comes to disaster in Puerto Rico. I hope that we can find agreement soon and put this totally unnecessary political fight behind us and finally deliver relief to disaster-stricken Americans, wherever they may be.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, 133 million Americans under 65 years of age are living with a preexisting condition of some kind. Right now, because of the laws on the books, insurance companies cannot charge those Americans more or deny them coverage simply because they have a preexisting condition. That is a great thing. That is something Americans longed for before these protections became law.

But, unfortunately, that could all change and go away if the lawsuit against our healthcare law brought by Republican attorneys general and supported by the Trump administration

succeeds. It would deprive health coverage for tens of millions of Americans and risk denial of coverage or exorbitant premiums for up to 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions. That scale of cruelty is so large that it is almost unimaginable—to tell 133 million Americans that you will not get protections if, God forbid, you have an illness and your insurance company wants to cut you off. Yet those are the practical consequences of the lawsuit that the Trump Department of Justice continues to support. While that lawsuit is a fundamental threat to our country's healthcare system, led by President Trump and supported by just about every Republican in this Chamber, the Trump administration has also spent much of the past 2 years sabotaging and undermining healthcare at every turn.

As for this ideology that the government should not help people who have healthcare problems, well, about 90 percent of all Americans do not agree with that, but somehow it is dominant in the White House and dominant in the Republican Senate. Last week the House passed legislation that would reverse the Trump administration. It is good that the new majority in the House is taking action.

Later this week the House is poised to pass another package of legislation to further protect preexisting conditions and help Americans sign up for quality health coverage. But so far none of the bills that protect Americans' healthcare have received any attention from the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and that is a shame—a real shame.

Leader MCCONNELL has slowly but surely been turning the Senate into a legislative graveyard, where even the most consequential and noncontroversial legislation gets buried indefinitely.

Just take the House-passed legislation on preexisting conditions as an example. This is extraordinarily popular with the American people. A Kaiser poll found that nearly 70 percent of Americans do not want the courts to overturn protections for preexisting conditions. I don't think any of my colleagues would argue on the merits that we should go back to a healthcare system where insurance companies could discriminate against a child with cancer. In fact, several of my Republican colleagues who recently won reelection ran ads explicitly saying they were for protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. So why will the Republican leader not commit to at least putting up legislation to do that? I hope it is not because my Republican colleagues want to be able to say one thing and do another. I hope it is not because of the influence of dark money. I hope that is not why. So I would say to the leader: Do not throw healthcare legislation into the legislative graveyard. Do not throw the healthcare of the American people into the legislative graveyard.

The American people are worried about rising costs and declining qual-

ity. They are worried that if they are sick, they could wake up any day and no longer have access to healthcare. That is a very real threat that millions of Americans face under the Trump administration. Healthcare was the No. 1 issue for most Americans in the last election. We should be doing something to protect American families from the Trump administration's effort to undermine healthcare. I understand that my Republican colleagues do not want to cross the President, but this issue is too important to too many American families to remain silent, too important for our Republican colleagues not to go to their leader—especially, those colleagues who campaigned for preexisting condition protections—and tell the leader that we must bring this legislation to the floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, when Republicans took office at the beginning of the 115th Congress, we had one goal in mind, and that was to make life better for American families. We knew that American families were struggling. Recovery from the great recession was long and slow. Economic growth was sluggish. Wages were stagnant. Too many families were living paycheck to paycheck. American families needed relief, and Republicans were determined to give it to them.

That is why we made getting our economy going again a priority. We knew that our economy needed to do a lot better if American families were going to start doing better. A strong economy is the key to getting Americans access to the jobs, wages, and opportunities they need to thrive.

So we took action. We eliminated burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth, and we passed a historic reform of our Tax Code to put more money in Americans' pockets and to get our economy going again.

We cut tax rates and doubled the child tax credit, and in 2018 the average family of four saw a tax cut of more than \$2,000. We lowered tax rates for businesses, expanded business owners' ability to invest in their operations and their workers and made American businesses more competitive in the global economy.

We are seeing the results. Job creation is up. Wages are growing at the fastest pace in a decade. Personal income is up. Unemployment is at the lowest level in 50 years. Tax reform is

delivering bigger paychecks, more opportunities, and a better quality of life for American workers.

Tax reform might be our biggest achievement in the 115th Congress, but it is far from the only thing that we did to make life better for American families. We also enacted legislation to provide better education and training to American workers. We passed multi-billion-dollar bipartisan legislation to combat the opioid epidemic, which has devastated families and communities across the United States.

We passed the longest extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program in the program's history. We passed legislation to provide hope to terminally ill patients by giving them access to experimental treatments. We passed bipartisan clean energy legislation. We passed a farm bill to support our Nation's farmers and ranchers, to protect our environment, and more.

But there is more work to be done. Republicans are working right now to develop and pass legislation to continue to address the cost of living and to improve Americans' quality of life. We are committed to making tax relief permanent for American families. We are also committed to ensure that the economic progress we have made sticks around for the long term.

We are working to open new markets for American goods and services so that American workers and businesses can thrive. One priority is passing the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement, which would grow our economy and create 167,000 new jobs.

Republicans are also committed to making healthcare more affordable. We want to give Americans more and more affordable insurance options. We are working on legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and increase access to lower cost generics. We are focused on developing solutions that will bring greater clarity to healthcare costs and address so-called surprise billing. You should not go to an in-network hospital expecting to pay one thing and then get an unexpected enormous bill weeks later because it wasn't disclosed to you that the doctor you saw wasn't in your insurance network.

Another challenge facing American families is the cost of education. Republicans are currently working on legislation to make it easier to apply for Federal student aid and to pay back student loans. We will also continue to support career and technical education, and we will work to further increase the usefulness of 529 savings plans to help families plan and meet educational expenses.

One bright spot for family budgets over the past few years has been energy costs. Republican policies have helped to make energy more affordable, and we are committed to keeping American's energy bills reasonable by supporting responsible energy development.

We are also committed to continuing our work to keep our air clean and our environment healthy.

We currently have multiple bills in the pipeline to promote clean energy technologies with more to come. There are a lot of other Republican plans that I could talk about, everything from making it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to ensuring that rural communities enjoy equal access to broadband services and the economic opportunities that they bring.

One thing the American people can count on is that Republicans are working every day to improve Americans' quality of life. Our proposals may not always make it into the news. A lot of them do not have catchy names, like the Green New Deal, and they do not make pie-in-the-sky promises. But unlike the so-called Green New Deal, our plans are actually achievable, and they would actually make life better for American families.

I am proud that more families are thriving today thanks to tax reform and to other Republican policies, and Republicans will continue to work every day to make sure that life continues to improve for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Truncate nomination?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Daines	Lee
Barrasso	Enzi	McConnell
Blackburn	Ernst	McSally
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Murkowski
Braun	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Perdue
Capito	Hawley	Portman
Collins	Hoeven	Risch
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Cotton	Inhofe	Rubio
Cramer	Isakson	Sasse
Crapo	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)

Shelby	Tillis	Young
Sullivan	Toomey	
Thune	Wicker	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Jones	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Brown	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cantwell	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Harris	Romney	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Hirono	Rounds
Gillibrand	Kennedy	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Court Judge, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Hirono	Rounds
Gillibrand	Kennedy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Lee nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the years, I have spent a great deal of time on the Senate floor highlighting the evolving challenges along our southern border.

My home State of Texas shares a 1,200-mile common border with Mexico, so any major shift in terms of who or what is arriving at the border is felt quickly by my constituents and by my State. In recent months, I have heard from the Border Patrol, local officials, nongovernmental organizations, community leaders, businesses of every size, and just average citizens alike about how the situation today is far more challenging than it has ever been before.

In the past, the number of illegal border crossings have fluctuated by varying degrees, but now we have seen a complete shift not only in number but also in the “who” of those crossing.

While we used to see single adults from Mexico, that is simply not the case anymore. There is no new net migration from Mexico, we are told. As Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost highlighted in a hearing last week, 68 percent of those apprehended are now families or unaccompanied children, and that is on purpose. The human smugglers have figured out what our laws are and how to exploit them in order to successfully place people in the United States by overwhelming our system. The 68 percent of families or unaccompanied children amounts to roughly 293,000 apprehensions so far this fiscal year—293,000. What is more, 70 percent of the unaccompanied children and families are occurring in just two Border Patrol sectors, the El Paso sector and the Rio Grande Valley sector, making the State of Texas and its border communities the hardest hit.

The vast majority of those crossing aren't from Mexico. They are coming from Mexico, but they are actually coming through Mexico. So far this fiscal year, 74 percent of the Border Patrol's apprehensions along the southern border are people from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—what is called the Northern Triangle. This means that in 7 months, nearly 341,000 people from the Northern Triangle of Central America made the decision to leave their homes and to make a dangerous journey in the hands of a human smuggler to illegally enter the United States. Here is another shocking statistic, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan recently noted that Guatemala and Honduras have seen more than 1 percent of their total population migrate to the United States in the first 7 months of this fiscal year—more than 1 percent of their entire population.

While it is abundantly clear that the mass movement of people across our border is a problem that must be addressed, it is an understatement to say that Members of the Senate disagree on what a solution looks like. We spent a lot of time debating the semantics of the entire situation without making any real progress. I believe our strategy to alleviate this humanitarian crisis hinges on three important steps:

First, we need stronger physical security at the border. The experts have told us that means three things: barriers and, in-hard-to-control places, people—that is law enforcement—and technology. That is what our frontline officers and agents need to do their jobs, and that is what we should provide.

Secondly, we need to provide Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol with the authorities—that means the laws—they need in order to effectively do their job. That includes closing the loopholes that are being exploited by the human smugglers and the illegal immigrants entering the country because they have figured out how to

game the system. They know our laws better than most Americans do.

Both of these are what are called pull factors—what attract people to come to the United States illegally. They are gaps in our physical security and legal system that encourage Central American migrants to make the dangerous journey north because their chances of making their way into the interior of our country are pretty high.

There is a critical third step here. We also need to eliminate the push factors. That is what is driving people from Central America on that dangerous road north through Mexico into the United States. The reason so many of these families are leaving their home countries in the first place boils down to poverty and violence. We know these three countries in the Northern Triangle are plagued by crime, corruption, and a lack of economic opportunities. Sometimes it is difficult for Americans to grasp the deep-seated nature of these problems and why it is so tough to resolve them because it is such a far cry from what most have experienced here at home.

In October of 2018, the International Organization for Migration conducted a survey of a group of Salvadoran migrants who banded together as a caravan to make the journey north. It found that 52 percent of the people who were coming from El Salvador cited economic opportunity as their motive for leaving the region, 18 percent cited violence and insecurity, 2 percent said they wanted to unify their families, and 28 percent cited some combination of these factors. Now, this may not be the case for migrants from each country, but it paints a broad picture of how these challenges are affecting them.

We must help these countries address their problems, but we can't do it for them. Looking at South America and the successful efforts we have had to help countries rebuild themselves into successful economies with security for their people, there is one that stands out the most, and that is Colombia. What is different about Colombia from the rest of these countries is we had, one, a bipartisan plan that was applied over many years by both Republican and Democratic administrations. We also had a strong partner, a leader, President Uribe in Colombia, which is something we are missing in Central America. Then we had a plan, as the name Plan Colombia suggests, so we knew what we were doing, and we knew how to measure success. We don't have any of these things now as part of our effort to help the Central American countries help themselves.

Having said that, I think that is a challenge we need to rise to, to find a way of helping these countries create economic opportunities and security for their people so we can help relieve some of the strain on our own border.

This morning, my colleague from Delaware, Senator CARPER, and I participated in a discussion by the Bush

Center and the Atlantic Council on how to promote economic growth in the Northern Triangle. I think it is very helpful for these think tanks to gather experts and come up with proposals we can consider and then vote on. Frankly, it is very hard for Congress—we don't have really the bandwidth to come up with proposals from the start, so it is helpful to have smart people from around the country, experts, who can help advise us.

We know this: One of the most fundamental problems standing in the way of prosperity for Central America is the security crisis. Because of endemic corruption and powerful criminal organizations, a genuine rule of law is missing in these countries and has been for generations. We have had some successes partnering with our closest neighbor in this crisis, Mexico, and I believe we can continue to build upon some of the programs we already have in place there. For example, the United States has partnered with Mexico in recent years through programs like the Merida Initiative to combat drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and money laundering. There is a need for increased security cooperation and burden sharing to lessen the regional insecurity and damage caused by the growing influence of cartels, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations. We have directed funds toward strengthening communities and empowering the Mexican criminal justice system and judicial system to help combat the rampant culture of impunity that exists in Mexico, and I believe we have made some marginal gains, although there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We have also shared intelligence and cooperated in providing various forms of security.

The Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement continues to work to develop programs to combat international narcotics and crime, especially in Central America, but U.S. funding for this program in Mexico has stagnated. Additional aid for this program would combat transnational criminal organizations, improve drug interdiction, and train Mexican law enforcement and judicial personnel.

Moving forward, we should begin to look at the effectiveness of these existing programs so we can take full advantage of the work they do and ensure they are modernized to confront the evolving epidemic. It is nearly impossible to determine how or if this money is benefiting the people hit hardest by this crime and corruption, and that needs to change. It is no news that the Trump administration has recently announced its decision to suspend aid to Central America. While I believe aid to these countries is important in providing any semblance of long-term stability, I also think it is important to fundamentally examine where this money is going, what we are trying to achieve, and how effective these programs are at achieving that goal. That

seems pretty simple, pretty straightforward, but we actually don't have a plan, and we don't have any metrics to measure our progress.

We know the problem is getting worse because the number of people showing up on our border just continues to increase.

If we are going to ask the American taxpayer to foot the bill, we have a fiduciary duty to them to make sure the money is going to be well spent in pursuit of American interests. We can't do that right now.

Every dollar should be responsibly spent on initiatives to strengthen security cooperation, improve governance, enhance public security, and promote prosperity through pro-growth reforms.

If that is not the case, then we need to take a hard look at how we can improve our foreign aid program.

We need to provide the resources and training to help Central American countries stabilize their governments and their economies. But, again, we can't do this for them. We can't want an outcome more than they do. They need to want this. They need to provide the leadership to be a partner with us to help execute an agreed-upon common plan, and then we need to be able to show the American taxpayers that their money is being well spent because we are making measurable progress.

When the people begin to see the opportunity and safety in their home countries, making a long migration northward becomes less of a necessity.

I hope we can have these continued discussions here in Congress over the coming months. But even more than that, I hope we can focus on this as a problem that needs to be solved—one that is above politics and beyond politics and one that really threatens the security and safety of our own country because not only do we know that migrants come to the United States fleeing poverty and violence, but we also know these same criminal organizations transmit drugs into the United States. They move people for human trafficking and sex slavery, and this is a challenge for our country, as well as the entire region.

We can do this if we will simply focus on it and work together on this as a problem to be solved. But, again, we can't do this for these countries in Central America.

I think President Trump was correct to suspend the money we are spending there until we actually have a plan and a willing partner to work with to implement and execute this plan in a way that can demonstrate measurable progress.

We have a model in Colombia where this has worked in the past, but around the world where the United States is engaged in nation building, there are not a lot of models for success. There are a lot of examples of failure because of the complexity and difficulty of this, but this is something that should be getting our attention and something that should be a priority for all of us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, in commemoration of National Police Week, families from across the country are gathering in Washington to pay respect to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty last year.

Mississippi tragically lost four officers who are being recognized this week at ceremonies in Mississippi and here in the Nation's Capital.

On May 17, 2018, Officer Emmett Paul Morris, 61, of Louin, was killed in a car crash. Having served the Raleigh and Reservoir Police Departments, Officer Morris was described as "a kind man who had the spirit of service."

Patrolman LeAnn Simpson of Philadelphia, MS, died in an automobile crash while responding to a call on November 24, 2018. She was just 23 years old. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Police Department, Simpson was a sergeant in the U.S. Army.

The loss of two other officers from Mississippi last year has special significance to me because they had dedicated themselves to protecting my hometown of Brookhaven in Lincoln County, MS.

Officers James Kevin White, 35, of Sontag, and Corporal Walter Zachery Marshall Moak, 31, of Brookhaven, lost their lives in a terrible standoff on September 29, 2018.

Corporal Moak served with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office before serving with the Wesson and Brookhaven Police Departments.

Officer White, in addition to being a police officer, served in Iraq with the Mississippi National Guard.

I join the families and communities of these four Mississippi officers in remembering their lives and expressing sincere gratitude for their service.

Sadly, their sacrifice did not end our losses in Mississippi. Mississippians just yesterday, this past Monday, paused to mourn a veteran Biloxi police officer, Robert McKeithen, as he was laid to rest after being gunned down outside the police station on May 5, 2019—last Sunday.

These officers and Trooper Kenneth "Josh" Smith of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, along with the more than 160 officers from around the country who lost their lives, deserve national recognition.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives daily to help keep us safe, and any loss of an officer deeply affects entire communities. I greatly admire members of the law enforcement community who remain steadfast in the

dangers of their noble profession. We acknowledge their brave service and fortify our support of their work to protect our families and our communities.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in recess subject to the call of the chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:15 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:41 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week we observe National Police Week, which is an annual gathering of tens of thousands of law enforcement personnel right here in our Nation's Capital. America will pay special tribute tomorrow to the service and sacrifice of our fallen officers as we mark Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Officers from all around the country will join together to honor their brothers and sisters in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and the rest of the Nation will remember how blessed we are by the selfless sacrifices of this "thin blue line" that protects our families and keeps our communities safe.

I extend a warm welcome to the many Kentuckians who have traveled here this week, and along with them, I am thinking especially of four of their comrades whose names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year: Hickman police officer Rodney Smith, whose patrol car was washed into a field while he was checking on members of his community during a flood; Patrolman Scotty Hamilton, of the Parkville Police Department, who was murdered while he was investigating a suspicious vehicle for narcotics activity; Hopkinsville police officer Phillip Meacham, who was shot and killed while off duty as he assisted a fellow officer; and Louisville

Metro Police Department detective Deidre Mengedoh, who was struck and killed while conducting a traffic stop on Christmas Eve.

With more than three decades of combined service, these heroic Kentuckians left behind spouses, children, and an entire Commonwealth that mourns their tragic losses. It is my honor to have represented them in the Senate and to represent all those who wear the uniform. It was an honor to proudly cosponsor the resolution designating this as National Police Week.

I also pause to recognize the U.S. Capitol Police, whose officers protect all of us in this building every day. Their professionalism and dedicated service make our democracy possible and allow millions of visitors to observe their government up close each year.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this morning, we voted to confirm Michael Truncale to serve as a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Texas. Now we are considering Kenneth Lee, of California, who is slated to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Lee is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School, and he held a clerkship in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Since then, his record has been marked by his success in private practice as a litigator, in his distinguished public service as an Associate White House Counsel during the Bush administration, and in his work as an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law.

In addition to a "unanimously well qualified" rating from the ABA, which is the best it can give, and a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Lee has earned the especially high esteem of one of our own colleagues. The junior Senator from Arkansas attended law school with the nominee. He has personally testified that Mr. Lee is "not only a brilliant lawyer, but more important, he's a man of high character."

So I hope, as this body continues our work toward swiftly processing the backlog of well-qualified nominees on the Executive Calendar, that each of my colleagues will join me in supporting the confirmation of Kenneth Lee.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, on one final matter, since the beginning of this Congress, the Nation has watched two fascinating trends play out.

We have observed the job market—and the opportunities available to working Americans—continue to break records and open new doors across the country. At the very same time, we have watched a new House Democratic majority, along with our friends across the aisle in this body, put forward a laundry list of proposals that appear to be tailor-made to shut those many doors.

Two weeks ago, the contrast was drawn especially stark. Just a few days

before we received a new Labor Department report that 263,000 new jobs were created during the month of April, House Democrats held a hearing on legislation to heap a massive new tax burden on American producers and consumers in pursuit of a one-size-fits-all, Washington-run health insurance scheme; news of the lowest national unemployment rate since 1969 and a roadmap for Medicare for None; an economic moment that has seen more job openings than job seekers for the first time in recorded history alongside a proposal for a Federal social program that could leave taxpayers with an estimated \$32 trillion bill.

It is not the first time I have mentioned this staggering pricetag here on the floor, but the news of this reality is spreading. Our friends in the press are catching on to the fact that the plan to implement Medicare for None isn't as neatly wrapped as its sponsors would suggest. "Tax Hikes on the Wealthy Alone Can't Pay for 'Medicare for All.'" That was one headline from last week. The cat is out of the bag. According to one analyst, "there isn't \$30 trillion sitting around from high earners . . . it just doesn't exist."

Turning these socialist policies into reality would fall on the shoulders of all kinds of working families. Indeed, raising what the Senate Democrats' plan is estimated to cost over a 10-year period would require, according to the same analyst—listen to this—"doubling all personal and corporate income taxes or tripling payroll taxes." Let me say that again: doubling or tripling the taxes that all Americans pay, not just the wealthy. Far-left class warfare rhetoric will not pay those bills. That will take real money that will have to be taken from real middle-class families.

As communities across the country continue to reap the benefits of this remarkable opportunity economy—helped by the policy accomplishments that the Republicans have worked hard to enact—the Democrats' plan to pile radical new costs on the shoulders of the American people is looking like an especially tough sell.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, this week is National Police Week—a time to honor the sacrifices and the service of our Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers.

I want to take this opportunity as a Senator from West Virginia to thank the officers who keep our communities across our country safe.

I especially want to thank the State troopers, the sheriffs, the deputy sheriffs of all 55 of our counties, and our city police officers across West Virginia who serve and protect the Mountain State.

Tomorrow, the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service—a somber service—will honor 158 law enforcement heroes from across this Nation who were killed in the line of duty in the year 2018. We all mourn the loss of these brave men and women.

Last night, I joined thousands, I believe, of officers on the National Mall for their candlelight vigil in preparation for the Peace Officers Memorial Service. What I saw there was really astounding. I struck up conversations with a lot of different people. I saw sheriffs from Florida. I saw the motorcycle police officers from Texas. We saw the mounted officers from all over the country on beautiful equestrian horses. We saw city police officers from big cities and small cities, men and women, young and old, serving our country as our law enforcement officers.

As we did yesterday evening during the candlelight vigil, we continue to stand with not just the fallen heroes' families but those who are serving us now. Our country will never forget the sacrifices our fallen law enforcement officers and their families have made.

In the coming days, I hope that we will further honor our police officers by passing several pieces of bipartisan legislation.

One of these bills is the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act. It was introduced by Senator HAWLEY. The bill will reauthorize and improve family support grants for law enforcement officers to better address mental health and suicide prevention.

Our law enforcement officers have to deal with difficult and often tragic situations. They are the first to respond to a difficult accident or the first to view up close and personal the devastation of child abuse and other terrible incidents. Responding to tragedy and helping individuals through the worst days of their lives would take a toll on anybody. We need to be there for the officers who are there for us by providing mental health services when they are needed.

I also support passage of the Debbie Smith Act, which was introduced by Senator CORNYN. This will extend funding for DNA testing to reduce the rape kit backlog, which has been historically quite large.

The West Virginia State Police and Marshall University have partnered to utilize some of this funding in my State. It is important that we continue providing resources to help our law enforcement officers bring justice to the victims of rape and other violent crimes.

Senator LEAHY's bill to continue the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, which we participate in, again, in West Virginia, is also critical to protecting the lives of our police officers.

All of these bills enjoy broad support and should be passed soon.

The work of our police officers do influence so many aspects of our lives. In West Virginia, where the opioid epidemic continues to devastate families and communities across the State, our police play a vital role. They help others to stop bringing the drugs into our towns to begin with. They assist with those who are caught in the cycle of addiction. By going to schools and being school resource officers, they prevent that next generation from going down that path.

This week is also National Drug Prevention Week, and the Martinsburg Initiative in West Virginia is a great example of how our police can play such a positive role in our children's lives.

This initiative is spearheaded by the Martinsburg Police Department, the Berkeley County Schools, and Shepard University, as well as a wide array of local partners, most especially the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle. Its goal is to stem the opioid addiction problem by identifying and trying to determine the basic causes of drug abuse in at-risk families. The effort is actually based on a CDC study that shows when children have adverse childhood experiences like exposure to drugs and alcohol, it can have a major impact on their physical and mental developmental health.

The work these officers are doing, led by Martinsburg chief of police Maury Richards, is incredible. I have seen it firsthand. Whether they are playing basketball with the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle or spending times in West Virginia in Berkeley County Schools playing interactive learning games and helping students with their work, or simply lending a hand and a smile whenever one is needed, they are making such a difference and letting kids know that their police department is part of the solution, and they are there and available to help.

I saw other prevention efforts underway last year when I visited John Adams Middle School in Charleston. I went with Chad Napier, who is from the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Task Force to meet with students. He was explaining to them just the proliferation of drugs, the damage drugs can do, and doing it in a way that could relate to the middle schoolers.

So during National Drug Prevention Week, I want to recognize those who use their time and talent to help prevent addiction in our communities. During National Police Week, I want to thank our police officers again and their loved ones for their service and their sacrifice on behalf of our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, this week marks the 65th anniversary of the

Supreme Court's unanimous decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In *Brown*, the Justices recognized a profound, moral wrong tearing at the soul of this country—racial segregation in our Nation's schools.

They held fast to the principle inscribed above the entrance to the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Under Law," and they appealed to a self-evident truth, but not yet realized by our Founding documents, that equal means equal.

Of course, the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown* didn't stand alone. We needed civil rights activists like Thurgood Marshall, who had built toward this moment to carry the torch forward. We needed a Congress and a White House that would enshrine protections for civil rights, voting rights, and housing rights into law. We needed courts committed to this principle that racism and White supremacy could no longer hide behind the shield of law.

Most of all, we needed the power of the people fiercely demanding equality—students like the Little Rock Nine, who courageously, in the face of State-sponsored hostility, walked through the doors of Little Rock Central High School to jeers and taunts and threats; people like JOHN LEWIS, who marched and bled on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma; folks like Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner, who lost their lives together in the pursuit of justice; and leaders like King, who pointed us to the mountaintop.

Brown v. Board of Education isn't confined to the history books. The fight for equality and civil rights still continues to this day. Much of this hard-earned progress, unfortunately, almost tragically, is being rolled back.

Now, staggeringly, many judicial nominees for the Trump administration have refused to say whether they believe *Brown v. Board of Education* was even rightly decided. They can't even affirm the most basic and fundamental principle of American law.

One judicial nominee is set to receive a floor vote this week—Wendy Vitter. She not only refused to say that *Brown* was correctly decided but even suggested at the time that it was, perhaps, the wrong decision.

The nominee for the second highest job at the Justice Department, Jeffrey Rosen, refused to say whether *Brown* was rightly decided, even though he would oversee the Solicitor General in day-to-day operations of our Federal prosecutors.

The principle underlying *Brown* is more than a foundation of our legal system. It is also the foundation of democracy. It goes to the heart of one of the deepest ideals in our Nation—that we are a Nation where equal means equal.

The principle underlying *Brown* is sacrosanct. It is not something that we in this era, this day and age, should be leaving up to question or even debate.

So I would like to take a moment today to read from the Supreme

Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

This decision wasn't written just for lawyers or students at law school; it was written for the American people, making the case for equal justice under law.

So here we are—*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*. Chief Justice Warren delivered the opinion of the Court, and I quote:

These cases come to us from the States of Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware. . . . In each of the cases, minors of the Negro race, through their legal representatives, seek the aid of courts in obtaining admissions to public schools of their communities on a nonsegregated basis. In each instance, they have been denied admission to schools attended by white children under laws requiring or permitting segregation according to race. This segregation was alleged to deprive the plaintiffs of equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment.

In each of the cases other than the Delaware case, a three-judge federal district court denied relief to the plaintiffs on the so-called "separate but equal" doctrine announced by this Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. . . . The plaintiffs contend that segregated public schools are not "equal" and cannot be made "equal," and hence they are deprived of the equal protection of the laws. . . . Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education toward democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship.

Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does. . . . To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. . . . We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. . . . It is so ordered.

It has been 65 years since the nine Justices of the Supreme Court unanimously gave those words the force of law. Today, for any nominee who would enforce or interpret our laws, it should be far beyond debate that *Brown* was right—the separate-but-equal doctrine has no place in American society.

Sixty-five years on, it is our duty as Americans to continue to fight for equality and justice in America. We owe this not just to ourselves but we who benefit from the blessings of this democracy, sewn by the hands of our ancestors, we who partake of that fruit from their labors. We must recognize those heroes in the generations who advocated, marched, and insisted that this Nation make good on the promise of equal justice under the law.

I stand here upon the shoulders of those who came before. We as a nation have progressed in every generation toward more inclusion, more equality. Our courts and our activists and our citizens who came before have made this a more perfect union. We still have work to do, but we cannot allow ourselves to see undone the progress of our ancestors. We cannot allow ourselves to call into question those sacrosanct ideas enshrined in our law. This is not the time to go back. We must continue to forge a pathway forward.

Sixty-five years ago, our courts acted in the name of justice and equality. It is our duty and obligation to preserve that progress.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to express my objections in opposition to the Trump administration's constant attacks on women's healthcare, such as taking action to undermine the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and finalizing administrative rules that allow discriminatory practices to family planning providers and women seeking reproductive healthcare.

Women and their healthcare should not be under constant threat. As a country, the United States has made great efforts to promote equal rights for both women and men. Yet in the 21st century, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans continue to push the policies that set this country back.

The Trump administration's attacks on women's healthcare are unconscionable. Trump has taken several administrative actions that allow employers, insurance companies, and hospitals to refuse healthcare coverage and services based on their personal beliefs. For example, the recently finalized refusal rule allows virtually any individual or entity involved in a patient's care—from a hospital's board of directors to a receptionist who schedules procedures—to put their personal beliefs ahead of a patient's healthcare needs.

Letting hospitals, pharmacies, and a range of people involved in healthcare deny services means that women will lose critical care. Rape survivors could be denied emergency birth control. Same-sex couples could be denied fertility treatment. Women with an unintended pregnancy could be denied information and counseling on their options. The rule represents a radical de-

parture from HHS's mission and long history of combating discrimination, protecting patients' access to care, and eliminating health disparities. It is outrageous that President Trump continually implements policies that discriminate against women in healthcare. We cannot allow women to be treated this way.

One of the most egregious acts of this administration is gutting title X, the Nation's only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. The Trump administration finalized a rule that would bar providers from giving their patients complete medical information and block care at popular family planning providers like Planned Parenthood, even though Planned Parenthood serves approximately 40 percent of title X patients.

Last year, title X funding allowed nearly 4,000 health centers to provide over 4 million low-income women and men basic primary and preventive healthcare services such as pap tests, cervical cancer screenings, contraception, breast exams, and HIV testing. In Maryland there are 55 title X-funded health centers spanning my State. These include federally qualified health centers, local health departments, Planned Parenthood clinics, and school-based health centers. In fiscal year 2015, Maryland received over \$3.8 million in title X funding and provided health services to over 64,000 patients. These are low-income, underinsured, and uninsured individuals who would otherwise lack access to healthcare.

In addition to attacks on women's healthcare, the Trump administration has proposed a title IX rule that weakens the existing protections for victims of campus sexual assault and allows universities to roll back their responsibilities to ensure students receive an education free of discrimination. Recently I was on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, speaking to students from College Park and Bowie State University regarding issues related to higher education. At College Park students are guaranteed housing on campus only for their first 2 years of education. Under Secretary DeVos's title IX rule, the university would no longer be responsible for investigating any claims of sexual assault for incidents that take place off campus, even though it may involve two students. In fact, 9 out of 10 sexual assaults do take place off college campuses.

This rule and the administration's failure even to listen to the concerns of sexual assault survivors on campus show a callous disregard for victims. We should be working to ensure protection for victims, not minimizing their experiences. In order to do just that, I have fought for funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to have adequate staffing to investigate these claims and other

claims of violations of a student's civil rights. I have also cosponsored bipartisan legislation, such as the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, which seeks to find a commonsense solution to this difficult issue that holds colleges accountable without traumatizing victims when reporting an assault.

We should also take up and pass the reauthorization for the Violence Against Women's Act. Last month, the House passed this critical legislation, which would reauthorize funding of these programs and authorize new programs; amend and add definitions used in the VAWA programs; amend Federal criminal law relating to firearms, custodial rape, and stalking; and expand Tribal jurisdiction over certain crimes committed on Tribal lands.

The American people deserve better from their elected officials. I am committed to opposing President Trump's reckless and outrageous actions that would harm women and their families in Maryland and across our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. JONES pertaining to the introduction of S. 1453 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. JONES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Illinois.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 1 year ago, President Trump recklessly withdrew from the historic nuclear agreement reached between the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran to end Iran's nuclear weapons program.

President Trump decided to withdraw from that agreement. It is not clear to me why President Trump further undermined our country's international reputation by backing out of this agreement reached by key global powers.

To think that we had a consensus, including Russia and China and our traditional allies of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, and the President decided to walk away from it is beyond me.

As with so many issues, he seems motivated to reverse anything ever done by President Barack Obama, regardless of the facts or by his naive belief that he can always strike a better deal.

Sadly, I have yet to see any evidence of that dealmaking acumen. In fact, I have only seen alienated allies, giveaways to dictators, and a loss of American standing and influence in the world.

It is important to step back and recall where we were when President Obama took office. Our intelligence community assessed that until 2003, Iran was working toward a nuclear bomb. Among the many calamities of the disastrous war in Iraq was that it further empowered Iran. The country's hard-liners moved forward at great speed, building suspicious nuclear infrastructure. These efforts produced large and unsettling quantities of highly enriched uranium that could have been used for a nuclear weapon.

Such a weapon in the hands of the Iranian regime would have been an unacceptable risk to the region, to Israel, and to the world.

This is the mess that President Obama inherited when he came to office. He pledged that Iran would not be able to obtain a nuclear bomb on his watch, and he kept his word. You see, just as President Kennedy negotiated with the Soviets when they were threatening possible nuclear war with missiles in Cuba, just as President Nixon began to establish ties with China while it was supplying weapons to the North Koreans, who were fighting Americans, and just as President Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union, even though it was occupying Eastern Europe and fomenting violent revolution, there are times when such agreements serve our national interest and make the world a safer place.

Similarly, President Obama negotiated a comprehensive deal that prevented Iran from being able to build a nuclear bomb and held it to stringent, invasive inspections to ensure that Iran kept its pledge.

Notably, this historic agreement was accomplished without drawing the United States into war in the Middle East. Let me be clear. The nuclear agreement was never about all the other genuinely troubling Iranian behavior in the world, but, instead, it was designed to ensure that Iran didn't pursue activities with a nuclear weapon. That is what it did.

The International Atomic Energy Agency continues to verify that on the ground in Iran the agreement still holds. For the last 4 years, this Agency has performed an average of four surprise inspections every month—8,000 inspection hours—and they have found no evidence of noncompliance on the Iranian side.

Now, today, President Trump is pursuing an incomprehensible policy of regime change, trying to flatter and meet with Iranian President Ruhani to negotiate a supposedly better deal and threatening Iran militarily and tightening sanctions. The end result of this dangerous incoherence is that our allies are united against us, sadly to say, and Iran may restart nuclear activities which had been frozen for the last 4 years because of the agreement that President Trump walked away from.

So the only thing our President's policies have done is to make a potential restart of Iran's nuclear program a

reality. I fear that President Trump, with the goading of many around him, is trying to foment a pretext for another war in the Middle East—the last thing America or the world needs.

So let me be clear on something that I have said regardless of who is in the White House, a Republican President or a Democratic President. Article I, section 8 of our Constitution is clear that Congress has the authority—the only authority—to declare war. This President—any President—must first have the approval of the people's representatives in Congress before asking our sons and daughters to enter into battle.

It is not too late for an off-ramp.

I am concerned that this word isn't even close to the way I actually feel with the suggestion that Acting Defense Secretary Shanahan was called on to create a plan using 130,000 American military to be poised in some effort to intimidate Iran. One hundred thirty thousand—that is the number of troops we sent into Iraq.

I was happy to be one of the 23 members of the Senate who voted against that terrible decision, but we didn't prevail. We went into Iraq and thousands of Americans died. It can happen on any President's watch. This President is setting the stage for it to happen in Iran.

Sadly, the American people have not been dealt into the conversation. They have one thing to turn to, though, our Constitution, which says that, ultimately, the American people will make the decision when it comes to war through their elected representatives.

This administration should return to the only reasonable, smart, and effective option on the table for countering Iran: Rejoin the nuclear agreement immediately, repair our strained relationship with our own allies, and use that unity to push back on Iran's destabilizing actions across the region which exist outside the nuclear realm. Anything else is reckless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Texas.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to give voice to a town in Texas. It is a small town of about 14,000 people. In that town there is a high school, a school of about 1,500 students. One year ago, on May 18, a deeply disturbed and deranged student committed an unspeakable act of evil which shook Santa Fe, shook Texas, and shook the entire country. It left our Nation weeping.

Just before 8 in the morning, the shooter began firing weapons into classrooms and through doors where his fellow students were taking shelter.

Within minutes, the attacker senselessly murdered 8 students and 2 teachers. Their names are the following: Jared Conard Black, Christian Riley Garcia, Shana Fisher, Aaron Kyle McLeod, Glenda Ann Perkins,

Angelique Ramirez, Sabika Sheikh, Christopher Stone, Cynthia Tisdale, and Kimberly Vaughan.

I would like us to pause for a moment of silence as we remember these brave souls.

Their names will live on. Their killer's name will not. His name is never worth mentioning again.

Thirteen others were also brutally wounded, including three substitute teachers. Flo Rice, one of the substitute teachers at the high school that day, was shot five times. I have gotten to know Flo and her husband Scott well in the weeks and months since the shooting.

But that day was not merely a day of great tragedy. It was also a day of incredible bravery. Santa Fe police officers did their duty and swiftly engaged the shooter. One of those police officers, John Barnes, was critically wounded in the process. They shot back, and, ultimately, they took the coward into custody.

Santa Fe students also proved themselves to be heroes. One of them, Riley Garcia, made the ultimate sacrifice. He held a door shut to give other students time to escape, and he was killed in the process. Other students tended to the wounded and to each other.

In the wake of the shooting, Texans grieved with the families and friends of those we lost. We heard stories of terror and stories of hope.

I was at my home in Houston that morning. Santa Fe High School is about 45 minutes away from my house. When I got the call as to what was happening, I jumped into a truck and headed down there. I spent the entire day with families who had lost their children, with first responders, with teachers, with school leaders, with a community that was grieving mightily. But in Santa Fe, I also saw a boundless spirit and hope and unity.

I remember that afternoon, traveling to the hospital and visiting with a number of the students who had been shot and wounded that day. I remember meeting Clayton, a young man who had been shot just that morning. He had pins in his arm from being shot twice. Clayton described how he jumped over the fence, even after having been shot, and his friends helped to carry him to safety. This young man described how he is a bull rider and a pole vaulter. I asked him if he is a lefty or righty. He said he is a lefty, and that was the arm that was wounded. But he said with a smile: "You know, now I gotta learn to ride a bull with my right arm." That is the toughness and the spirit of these students and their entire community.

All across Texas and all across the country, millions of Americans lifted those children and lifted those families up in prayer. You know, it has become politically fashionable now to deride thoughts and prayers. To suggest that thoughts and prayers are not appropriate, I will say this: We should always lift up in prayer those who are

victimized by violence, by brutality, by terrorism, by murder. I believe in the power of prayer, and I will tell you that the community of Santa Fe leaned on the power of prayer in the wake of that tragedy.

Now, thoughts and prayers are not themselves a substitute for action. In the days and the weeks that followed, I met with mothers and fathers and teachers and students. I hosted Santa Fe students here in the Senate Dining Room. We talked with law enforcement and with first responders. I sat down with the President, and he traveled down to meet with the Santa Fe families. I participated in a roundtable with Governor Abbott, families from Santa Fe and other communities victimized by violence, and officials at the Federal, State, and local levels. We discussed how we could do a better job of protecting our schools and protecting our children. We have lost too many kids to homicidal action, and it has to stop.

We have to do much more to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals and to better treat the mentally ill—all while preserving and protecting our constitutional rights.

There was a universal agreement in the wake of Santa Fe that, as a State and as a Nation, we had to see justice done and to take every step to try to ensure that such an attack never occurs again.

Soon after, I was gratified to hear that the Department of Education announced \$1 million in Federal funds for the Santa Fe Independent School District through Project School Emergency Response to Violence, or Project SERV. It is a crucial first step in Federal funding to help the Santa Fe school community to recover and protect all its students, but the story doesn't end there.

In addition to a State prosecution, most of us assumed there would be a Federal case against the Santa Fe shooter, as well, because his massive assault was on students and teachers in a public school, and, crucially, because authorities found explosive devices on the school grounds and off campus, including pipe bombs and a Molotov cocktail. To any reasonable observer, this would open the case to Federal explosives and terrorism charges.

All of us were committed to seeing the attacker prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Early press reports, however, indicated that Federal authorities were not going to proceed with the Federal case. Those press reports dismayed me—dismayed many—in particular because the shooter was under 18 at the time of the massacre, which means it is likely that the maximum State sentence he would receive is 40 years, which means that, if only State charges were brought, the shooter would be potentially eligible for release at 57 years old. Releasing this mass murderer into society would not be just, and it would not be right.

Thankfully, Attorney General Barr agreed, and it has been publicly re-

ported now that Federal charges have come forward to ensure that this attacker is brought to justice and faces the full consequences for the horrific acts of that morning.

(The remarks of Senator CRUZ pertaining to the submission of S. 1442 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN SKOGLUND

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a remarkable and unique person, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Skoglund, who will soon be retiring after serving 25 years with the Vermont judiciary.

Justice Skoglund is what we all want to see in a jurist and public servant. She is dedicated, personable, and highly committed to the rule of law, but her path to the Vermont Supreme Court was anything but typical. As a single mother working hard to get by in the 1970s, law school was not an option. Instead, she took advantage of Vermont's "Reading the Law" approach that allowed her to study while serving as an apprentice of sorts with the Vermont Attorney General's office. After being admitted to the Vermont Bar, she would go on to serve as chief of the civil law and public protection divisions in the AG's office before being appointed to the bench in 1994 by then-Governor Howard Dean. She would be elevated to the supreme court just 3 years later. At the time, she was only the second woman to serve on Vermont's highest court. Today, women make up the majority of its five justices.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Justice Skoglund during her many years of living and working in my hometown of Montpelier. Her personal story was so compelling that she was my first choice in 2008 to keynote Vermont's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, an annual event I have now hosted for 23 years.

But no tribute to Justice Skoglund would be complete if it did not mention her keen sense of humor. Perhaps it is this trait that has so deftly served her these many years, for as serious as the supreme court must be in delivering justice, Marilyn Skoglund has demonstrated time and again the benefit of

laughter in our lives. She finds the time to appreciate what some might only see as mundane; she cherishes her friendships, and she mentors those who will succeed us. By her own account, she has led a full life.

I ask unanimous consent that these excerpts of the May 1 Seven Days profile of Justice Skoglund be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, May 1, 2019]

JUSTICE SERVED: MARILYN SKOGLUND TO
RETIRE FROM THE VERMONT SUPREME COURT
(By Paul Heintz)

On her way out the door of her Montpelier home last Friday, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Skoglund rolled up her right sleeve to show off her latest tattoo.

"I waited until my youngest daughter's wedding," the justice said with a sneaky smile. "I knew she wouldn't want me to get it."

Written in a simple black cursive on the inside of her arm were the words, "Jag är matt," a Swedish expression often uttered in her childhood home at the conclusion of a family meal. "I am satisfied," she translated. "I am full."

The 72-year-old jurist reflected for a moment—perhaps on a life rich in family, friends, dogs and the law—and declared, "I am satisfied! I mean, what else can you say? I'm very lucky. I am satisfied."

This week, Skoglund plans to inform Gov. Phil Scott that, after 22 years on the state's highest court, she intends to resign effective September 1.

Skoglund's retirement brings to a close one of the most remarkable and least likely careers in the Vermont judiciary—that of a struggling single mother who passed the bar without a day of law school and worked her way up to become the second female justice in state history.

Now, the famously irreverent attorney is looking for a new challenge, be it the beginning Spanish class she plans to take this fall or the online bartender course she's long contemplated. "I just need to take a chance and see what else I can do before I drop dead," she said, letting loose her trademark cackle.

Skoglund's sense of humor has long served as the "collegiality glue" on the court of five, according to retired justice John Dooley. In her decades on the bench, she has made it her mission to draw colleagues and staff members out of their casework and into the world—through court poetry slams, end-of-term parties and art openings at the Supreme Court gallery she founded and oversees.

"I would describe her as a unifier," said Victoria Westgate, a Burlington attorney who clerked with her from 2013 to 2014. The justice has also served as a role model to a generation of young women in the law, Westgate said.

Though Skoglund may be best known for her larger-than-life personality, colleagues describe her as a deeply serious jurist with an unmatched work ethic.

"Of all the justices I've worked with, I think she probably put . . . more effort into preparing and understanding a case than any," said Dooley, who served alongside Skoglund for two of his three decades on the court. . . .

Born in Chicago and raised in St. Louis, Skoglund had what she describes as an "idyllic childhood," replete with a picket fence and parents who were "the Swedish equiva-

lent of Ozzie and Harriet." Her father managed a steel treatment plant and her mother, a former hairdresser and math tutor, raised the future justice and her sister.

Skoglund spent seven years meandering her way through Southern Illinois University—a fine arts major and "hippie folk singer" who worked, for a time, as a graphic designer for the inventor and futurist Buckminster Fuller. She finally earned her diploma after getting married and becoming pregnant with her first daughter.

The young family moved to Vermont in 1973 so that Skoglund's husband could take a job teaching painting and printmaking at Goddard College. They rented a small, uninsulated cottage on a 500-acre dairy farm in Plainfield. Skoglund learned to milk cows, taught photography and worked as an editor at Goddard. The marriage didn't last, though, and soon she was raising her daughter on her own.

Skoglund found herself relying upon the generosity of Walter Smith, the 68-year-old dairy farmer who served as her landlord and her "very own personal version of welfare." He provided firewood when she needed it and let her dip raw milk from the bulk tank. When she and her daughter were low on food, they would join Smith for cans of chicken noodle soup and mayonnaise sandwiches.

"He saw me through it," she said. Skoglund's experience with poverty later informed her work on the bench and, she said, gave her "a very good understanding of desperation and frustration and what it causes people to do." "I think I'm the only justice that's ever been poor," she said.

After completing a six-month paralegal class, Skoglund landed a clerkship in the Vermont Attorney General's Office and began reading for the law—an alternative route to the bar that enables aspiring attorneys to bypass law school through independent study. It was a solitary, self-motivated education, but I am disciplined," she wrote in a recent essay about her unconventional path. "In the central office of the attorney general, I was the only student with about 50 teachers."

Skoglund spent four years clerking for Louis Peck, then the chief assistant attorney general and later a Supreme Court justice. She would run lines for Peck, an amateur actor, and he would school her in the law. Skoglund credits him with informing her "legally conservative" approach. "I don't take liberties with the language, and I don't read myself into it," she said. "It's not about you, Marilyn."

Skoglund spent 17 years in the Attorney General's Office, eventually serving as chief of its civil law division and then its public protection division. She was appointed to the Superior Court in 1994 and to the Supreme Court in 1997.

"It's like candy," Skoglund said of her current gig. "I have never been bored."

The pace of the job wouldn't allow it. The supremes hear an average of 120 full cases a year, plus many more appeals on the so-called "rocket docket." They're also consumed by the myriad unseen administrative duties of the judicial branch, such as divvying up its "shoestring" budget and managing the lower courts.

"This all takes hours when all I want to be doing is reading cases," Skoglund said. . . .

According to Skoglund, her acid prose occasionally gives her law clerks "panic attacks." But members of her tight fraternity of former clerks praise her "dedication to raising a new generation" of lawyers, as Todd Daloz put it.

"She has a real energy and a real humor and a real joy of life," said Daloz, who clerked for Skoglund from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as associate general counsel for the Vermont State Colleges System.

"When I hire [clerks], I explain that I'm hiring my best friend for the next year," Skoglund said. "I have to be able to come in and vent and bitch and moan and get solace from them." . . .

For the past 35 years, Skoglund has lived in a tall, brown- and green-shingled house perched above the Statehouse on the southern boundary of Hubbard Park. The place is crammed with books and artwork and features a "wall of dogs" consisting of canine paintings she's collected. "It's kind of a magical place for me," she said of her home, where she does much of her off-the-bench legal work. "It's just a sanctuary."

Skoglund's two grown daughters, an obstetrician and a neuropsychologist, have long since moved out. Her current roommates include a 4-year-old goldendoodle named Johnny and, during Vermont's four-month legislative session, Senate Majority Leader Becca Balint (D-Windham). "I always say I have the best roommate," Balint said. "Sometimes it's seven o'clock in the morning and we're both crying because we're laughing so hard." . . .

Last Friday morning, after showing off her tattoo, Skoglund wrapped an unused dog leash around her waist and commenced her three-block commute down the hill and past the Statehouse to the Supreme Court. Johnny pranced along in front of her, relishing his freedom.

Skoglund gushed about her daughters and 9-year-old granddaughter, with whom she had spent the previous weekend.

"They're not thrilled with this tattoo—at least, the younger one isn't," she conceded. "But that's the way it goes, ladies. Mom's gotta do what Mom's gotta do."

Skoglund entered the court through a side door and showed off one of her most concrete contributions to the institution: an art gallery in the lobby of the building that she's curated for the past 20 years.

"When I first got here, it was the hall of dead justices," she said, referring to the oil paintings of her predecessors, now relegated to the stairways and upper floors. In their place was a series of mixed-media pieces by the artist Janet Van Fleet consisting of red buttons and plastic animals. Johnny led Skoglund up to her third-floor office, which features a smiling boar's head mounted to a wall. "Behind you is Emmet, my amanuensis," she said, gesturing at the hairy creature. "A lot of those wild boar things look scary and vicious. He's just sweet."

Skoglund took a seat behind her cluttered desk and said, with a resigned tone of voice, "I've been here for 22 years. It's time to go."

Asked how she hoped people would remember her, Skoglund answered without hesitation. "I worked hard," she said. "I took my position very seriously. I never cut corners. I understood the responsibility. That's what I hope."

TRIBUTE TO E. THOMAS SULLIVAN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, I am honored to recognize the president of the University of Vermont, UVM, Thomas Sullivan, who is stepping down this June after 7 years as a remarkable leader for the university.

Tom's tenure as the 26th president of the University of Vermont came during a tumultuous time in higher education. Despite demographic declines and reduced public investments in higher education, Tom made quality, affordable education and investment in scholarship his top priorities.

Tom expanded UVM's course offerings, oversaw 20 building projects, and

helped increase the value of UVM's endowment by 80 percent. When appointed in 2012, Tom was given the responsibility of heading UVM's Move Mountains fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$500 million by 2020. Because of Tom's personality, passion, and, at times, persuasion, the University hit its fundraising goal a year ahead of schedule, a very impressive accomplishment considering the economic hardship that has defined the last decade. The success of this campaign increased scholarships for students, invested in top-tier faculty, and made capital investments to improve the student experience.

While the university has continued to evolve, under Tom's leadership, UVM has managed to stay true to its founding as a Land Grant university. Tom has worked tirelessly during his tenure to expand UVM's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—STEM—offerings including the 4-year construction of a \$104 million STEM Complex. Tom shares the belief that income should not be a barrier to a good education. Because of his dedication to the education of all students, Tom was instrumental in developing UVM's Catamount Commitment, which promises Pell Grant-eligible Vermonters that the remainder of their tuition will be covered, either through grants or waived by the university entirely.

Tom's tenure at UVM tops off a long and distinguished professional experience in the field of academia. Tom taught at the law schools of the University of Missouri, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and was appointed to be a dean and professor of law at the University of Arizona College of Law. Following his time at the University of Arizona, he began his 17-year tenure at the University of Minnesota, where he eventually was appointed to become its senior vice president and provost.

Calling Tom a prolific academic and legal scholar would be an understatement. He has written 11 books and over 50 articles primarily in the field of antitrust litigation. In addition to his writings, in 2009, the Senate Judiciary Committee had the honor and privilege of obtaining Tom's advice and consultation on the confirmation of then-Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. The lasting impact of Tom's work in the field of legal studies is no small feat and will be felt for generations to come.

It is rare to find Tom's unparalleled selfless dedication to academia and the needs of students across the country as well as throughout the world. Over the course of his 7-year tenure, Marcelle and I have had the pleasure on multiple occasions to enjoy the company of Tom and his wife Leslie. They are wonderful people who care about nothing more than giving the next generation the opportunity to succeed through academics. Tom's charming and caring presence will surely be missed on cam-

pus, but we look forward to having Tom and Leslie as Vermont residents for some time. Marcelle and I thank Tom for his service, and we wish him and Leslie all the best in the next chapter of his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED BROWNELL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to speak briefly about the courageous environmental activism of Alfred Brownell, a native of Liberia now living in exile in Boston.

Mr. Brownell is an environmental and human rights lawyer and the executive director of Green Advocates, a Liberian organization that he founded to promote environmental justice for indigenous communities. Like so many environmental activists around the world, he has been repeatedly harassed and threatened. He was forced to flee his country with his family due to fear of reprisal for his outspoken and tireless work to protect the traditional land rights of his countrymen and against the sale, without their consent, of vast areas of forest to Golden Veroleum Liberia, a Southeast Asian-based company that produces palm oil. Now a visiting scholar and teacher at Northeastern University, Mr. Brownell continues to conduct research and classes on the issues that have come to define his life.

Mr. Brownell was recently recognized by the international community for his perseverance in protecting Liberia's forests on which thousands of Liberian families and many endangered species of wildlife depend. He was honored in San Francisco and Washington as one of six recipients of the prestigious 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize. It is important that we not only pay tribute to Mr. Brownell for his extraordinary contribution to his people and his country but that we be aware that despite this international recognition, he continues to fear returning to his native country.

I have long supported U.S. assistance to help Liberia overcome years of a brutal armed conflict, and I will continue to do so. But I regret that the Liberian Government has sided with the palm oil company and against their own local farmers. Unable to intimidate Mr. Brownell, government officials tried to silence him by offering him government jobs in return for his cooperation. When that failed, they put his house and his family under police surveillance, publicly accused him of sedition and economic sabotage, accused his organization and other environmental rights organizations of undermining Liberia's sovereignty, and lied about him to incite an assassination attempt. Since December 2016, he has been living in exile, with no indication from Liberian officials that their hostility toward him and his cause has diminished.

Government intimidation of civil society activists and scholars is antithetical to open and accountable demo-

cratic societies. It is what we have come to expect of shortsighted or, even worse, corrupt officials and the outsized influence of corporate interests.

If the Liberian Government is serious about attracting foreign investment for job creation and sustainable economic development—goals we all support—it should recognize that Mr. Brownell is a patriot of whom all Liberians can be proud. Liberian officials should encourage him and his family to return to Liberia, and point to him as an example of how one courageous and determined individual can make a positive difference for the country.

Rather than benefiting a foreign corporation producing a monocrop for export, the Liberian Government should be protecting its biologically diverse forests and wildlife, not destroying them and polluting the rivers on which local inhabitants depend and displacing people who have lived there for generations.

Alfred Brownell should be a source of pride and an inspiration for all Liberians. I hope the international recognition he has received will convince the Liberian Government that it is people like him who deserve our admiration and our thanks.

HONORING SERGEANT SEAN M. GANNON AND SERGEANT MICHAEL C. CHESNA AND PATROLMAN LEON F. MOODY

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, this week the country will observe National Police Week, a week in honor of the courageous law enforcement officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

As we honor the service of our brave men and women in the law enforcement community, I would like to take the opportunity to honor the life and memory of three law enforcement officers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities: Sean M. Gannon, Michael C. Chesna, and Leon F. Moody.

Sergeant Sean Gannon, of New Bedford, was killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2018. He was a lifelong public servant, first serving as a public safety officer and later becoming a police officer with the Yarmouth Police Department, where he served for 8 years. When he wasn't on duty, Sergeant Gannon enjoyed volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, spending time outdoors, traveling, and devoting time to family and friends.

Sergeant Gannon, who lost his life at the age of 32, was the beloved son of Denise Morency Gannon and Patrick Gannon and a devoted husband to his wife Dara.

Sergeant Michael Chesna, who was killed in the line of duty on July 15, 2018, dedicated his life to his country, his community, and his family. A native of Hanover, MA, Sergeant Chesna enlisted in the U.S. Army following the September 11 attacks, serving two

tours of duty with the 187 10th Mountain Division, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. Following his service in the Army, Sergeant Chesna became a police officer with the city of Weymouth, where he served until his untimely death at the age of 42.

Sergeant Chesna was a loving husband to his wife Cindy and father to his children Olivia and Jack. He was an avid Boston sports fan who enjoyed playing basketball, collecting sports memorabilia, and spending time with family and friends.

Patrolman Leon Moody of the Worcester Police Department died of an illness he sustained in the line of duty in 1932. He served the Worcester P.D. bravely for 15 years, before passing away at the age of 44.

Sergeants Gannon and Chesna and Patrolman Moody are among 371 law enforcement officers who died while protecting their communities and whose names were engraved this week on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC.

This week and every day, we honor their service and their sacrifice. Most importantly, we honor the lives they lived and legacies they leave behind. May their memories continue to challenge and inspire us.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Reid Blackwelder is a family physician with three clinics in the Tri-Cities area of East Tennessee.

A few years ago, he talked to the New York Times about the electric health records that were supposed to make his life easier, saying, "We have electronic records at our clinic, but the hospital, which I can see from my window, has a separate system from a different vendor. The two don't communicate. When I admit patients to the hospital, I have to print out my notes and send a copy to the hospital so they can be incorporated into the hospital's electronic records."

Dr. Blackwelder could pay for his patients' hospital records to be electronically sent from his system to the hospital's system—but it would cost him \$26,400 every month—or \$316,800 a year. For Dr. Blackwelder, and so many other doctors, record keeping is now more expensive and burdensome.

In 1991, the National Academy of Medicine released a report urging the "prompt development and implementation" of what were then called computer-based patient records. The report said these systems, "have a unique potential to improve the care of both individual patients and . . . to reduce waste through continuous quality improvement." Electronic health records got a boost in 2009 when the federal government began the Meaningful Use program, spending over \$36 billion in grants to incentivize doctors and hospitals to use these systems.

As was the prediction in the 1991 report, the hope was electronic records would improve patient care and reduce unnecessary health care spending. This is important because, at a hearing last summer, Dr. Brent James, from the National Academies, testified that up to 50 percent of what we spend on health care is unnecessary.

There is a bipartisan focus both in Congress and in the Administration on reducing health care costs. One way to reduce what we spend on administrative tasks and unnecessary care is by having electronic health records that talk to one another—we call that interoperability.

But in 2015—six years after the Meaningful Use program started—as this Committee worked on the 21st Century Cures Act, we realized that, in many cases, electronic health records added to administrative burden and increased unnecessary health care spending.

A major reason for that is that the records are not interoperable. One barrier to interoperability is information blocking—which is when some obstacle is in the way of a patient's information being sent from one doctor to another.

So, in 2015, this committee held six bipartisan hearings and formed a working group to find ways to fix the interoperability of electronic health records. These hearings led to a bipartisan group of HELP Committee members working together to include a provision in the 21st Century Cures Act to stop information blocking and encourage interoperability.

Today's hearing is about two new rules the Department of Health and Human Services has proposed to implement this provision in the 21st Century Cures Act. These two rules are complicated, but I'd like to highlight a few ways that they lay out a path toward interoperability:

First the rules define information blocking—so it is more precisely clear what we mean when one system, hospital, doctor, vendor, or insurer is purposefully not sharing information with another;

Second, the rules require that by January 1, 2020, for the first time, insurers must share a patient's health care data with the patient so their health information follows them as they see different doctors;

Third, all electronic health records must adopt the same standards for data elements, known as an Application Programming Interface, or API, two years after these rules are completed.

Fourth, hospitals are required to send electronic notifications to a patient's doctors, immediately, when that patient is admitted to, discharged from, or transferred from the hospital.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, these two new rules should give more than 125 million patients easier access to their own records in an electronic format. This will be a huge relief to any of us who have spent hours tracking down paper copies of our records and carting them back and forth to different doctors' offices.

The rules will reduce administrative burden on doctors so they can spend more time with patients. A recent study from Kaiser found that emergency room doctors, in order to use electronic health records systems, make up to 4,000 mouse clicks per shift. If electronic health records data was truly interoperable, it would greatly reduce how many clicks doctors have to make. According to HHS, spending less time on these administrative tasks will improve efficiency and therefore could save \$3.3 billion a year. And because doctors can see patients' full medical history, they can avoid ordering unnecessary tests and procedures.

I also want to be aware of unintended consequences from these rules: Are these rules

moving too fast? In 2015, I urged the Obama Administration to slow down the Meaningful Use program, which they did not do, and looking back, the results would have been better if they had.

Are the standards for data elements too rigid? Is the door still open for bad actors to game the system and continue to information block? And how can we ensure patient privacy as patients gain more access and control over their personal health information. And how do we help them keep it secure?

I want to ensure these rules will make the problem of information blocking better, not worse. I look forward to any specific suggestions to improve these rules from those who use electronic health records systems.

Electronic health records that work can give patients better outcomes and better experiences at a lower cost.

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. ALEXANDER. When I was president of the University of Tennessee, I asked David Gardner, who was then president of the University of California, why his university was considered one of the best in the world. He told me:

First, autonomy. We basically have four branches of government, he said, and one of them is the University of California.

Second, competition and choice—large amounts of state and federal money following students to the campus of their choice.

Third, a commitment to excellence by institutional leaders and faculty.

As a former university president, I am very much aware that despite that autonomy, our country's 6000 colleges and universities report to a lot of bosses—they are accountable to a great many individuals, boards, governments and other entities.

First, they are accountable to the students who may take their federal and state grants and loans to any accredited institution that will admit them;

Next, to 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies whose certification of quality is necessary before institutions are allowed to accept students who bring \$30 billion in new Pell grants and \$100 billion in federal student loans each year;

To ensure that these billions of dollars are spent wisely, the federal government measures how many students default on their loans;

For the 80 percent of students who attend public colleges and universities, states have governors, state legislators, laws, and state higher education authorities;

Every institution, public or private, also has its own board of trustees or directors;

And in addition, there are specific federal rules for the for-profit institutions, which about five percent of students attend, in order to stop fraud against students and taxpayers;

And when making a list of bosses, no former university president should leave out the faculty—most faculty members I have known take great pride in maintaining institutional excellence.

So any president of an American higher education institution has a lot of bosses and

a lot of people to whom he or she is accountable. And that has been a mostly successful approach.

Most surveys show that the United States has most of the best colleges and universities in the world. The dream of many of the best students from around the world is to attend American colleges and universities.

Still, I hear often from students asking if college is worth their time and money.

I believe there are steps we can take to make our higher education institutions more accountable—to provide those students, and the taxpayers backing their loans, with a clear yes, college is worth it.

In March, at our first bipartisan hearing during this Congress on updating the Higher Education Act, we looked at how to simplify how 20 million families apply for federal student aid. Last week, we held a bipartisan hearing about how to create a safe environment for students attending college.

Today's hearing will be looking at ways to ensure that students are earning degrees worth their time and money and that taxpayers are paid back the hundreds of billions that they have loaned students to earn degrees.

To hold colleges accountable for the \$130 billion a year in grants and loans, in 1990, Congress created the Cohort Default Rate, which applies to all colleges and universities.

This measure makes a college ineligible to receive federal student aid if, for three consecutive years, more than 30 percent of its borrowers are in default or over 40 percent in any one year.

However this cohort default rate has proven to be a poor instrument of accountability, since it does not take into account the one third of borrowers who are not yet in default but don't make payments on time.

Over the last decade, only 20 schools have become ineligible for federal student aid under the Cohort Default Rate, according to the Congressional Research Service. And then there are two federal accountability rules that apply only to for-profit institutions.

One, the 90-10 rule, which requires that at least ten percent of a for-profit's revenue come from non-federal sources; and

Two, the Gainful Employment Rule, which looks at how much debt a graduate has compared to his or her salary.

This comparison of debt to salary has proved to be a confusing and ineffective measure of accountability because it is too complex and does not account for students who take out loans but do not complete their degrees.

So we need a more effective measure of accountability.

But I do not want the federal government acting as a sort of National School Board for Colleges—telling states and accreditors and boards of directors at institutions how to manage the 6,000 colleges and universities.

Four years ago, this Committee passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which reversed the trend towards a national school board for elementary and secondary education.

For the same reasons, Washington should resist the urge to send thousands of federal bureaucrats to evaluate our colleges and universities, which would, in effect, create a national school board for colleges. Instead, Congress should create a new measure of accountability that looks at whether students are actually repaying their loans.

This would be a more effective and simpler way to ensure that taxpayers aren't financing degrees that are priced so high and worth so little that students are never able to pay back their loans.

This proposal is much like the Gainful Employment Rule—but it would apply to every

program at every college—public, private, and for-profit and would include students who took out loans but dropped out before graduating.

For some programs, this new measure should provide colleges with an incentive to lower tuition and help their students stay in school to finish their degrees and find a job so they can repay their loans.

A second step to improve accountability would be for the federal government to make the data it collects from colleges more useful to students and families. The Department has struggled for years under all administrations to make such information easily accessible to students and families.

As we work on updating the Higher Education Act, we first need to identify what information schools actually need to report, and second to provide direction to the Department on how to make that information accessible and useful to students.

And third, we should strengthen the 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies upon which we rely for certifying that students are receiving a quality education.

For example, instead of requiring that accreditors have a standard of "student achievement," Congress could more clearly require that accreditors measure whether students are both learning and succeeding, but leave the specific ways of measuring those to accreditors and institutions.

Our goal needs to be to help students know that their degrees are going to be worth their time and money and to help taxpayers know that the federal government isn't financing programs that do not provide students with a valuable education.

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL KEELING

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to J. Michael Keeling, a lifelong advocate for employee retirement benefits who believed in creating engaged workforces through Employee Stock Ownership Plans, or ESOPs.

A proud graduate of Harvard and the University of Texas School of Law, and a lifelong student of history, Mr. Keeling's support of ESOPs began in the 1970s when he served as chief of staff for former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle, an ardent supporter of these plans.

When Mr. Keeling joined the ESOP Association, he distinguished himself as an outstanding advocate and lawyer on behalf of employees and their companies seeking to establish Employee Stock Ownership Plans during the 1980s.

In 1991, after serving as general counsel to the organization, Mr. Keeling was chosen by the ESOP Association's board of directors to lead its operations as president and chief staff officer. It was during his distinguished 28-year tenure in this position that many important achievements benefitting thousands of businesses and millions of employee owners took place.

Thanks to his efforts, the ESOP Association developed a nationwide network of chapters facilitating education, training, and networking among employee owners. These local groups help hundreds of companies better engage their employee owners and successfully navigate the often complex regulations guiding ESOPs.

Recognizing that good policy is predicated on good data, Mr. Keeling worked with the ESOP Association to establish the Employee Ownership Foundation to fund research on the economic and personal effects of ESOPs and broad-based employee ownership. Since its inception in 1997, the foundation has donated millions of dollars to fund academic research. Its support was the key factor in establishing the first academic center devoted specifically to employee ownership: the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing, at Rutgers University.

Thanks to foundation-funded research, as a nation we now have clear evidence that companies with employee stock ownership are much more likely to withstand difficult economic times, more likely to invest in employee training, and are far less likely than conventionally owned firms to lay off employees. The foundation also has funded the academic study of dozens of fellows and researchers interested in employee ownership and its role in the U.S. economy.

During his tenure at the ESOP Association, Mr. Keeling visited nearly 600 ESOP companies. The breadth of insight he gained, coupled with his deep understanding of ERISA and tax law, made him a uniquely credible voice in the retirement plan community.

Mr. Keeling is retiring from his role as head of the ESOP Association this year, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his longterm, passionate efforts to preserve and advance the retirement benefits of millions of working Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. HOPKINS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, today I wish to salute Michael L. Hopkins for his decades of tireless work and devoted service to the schools of Rochester, NH. Mike is retiring this year as superintendent of the Rochester School District after spending the entirety of his career in the city's school system. He leaves a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

We all know the value of a quality education. It plays a critical role in the development of young minds everywhere, and enthusiastic teachers and administrators make it possible for so many students to take part in experiences that shape a lifelong appreciation for learning. As a former teacher myself, I know the commitment and understanding required to engage students, encourage curiosity and critical thinking, ultimately prepare them to find success after school and outside of the classroom.

Mike is also a former teacher, and he has brought that perspective to every move he makes as his district's top decision-maker. After graduating from his hometown school, Grinnell College

in Iowa, Mike set his sights toward New Hampshire and accepted a teaching job at the Gonic School. He quickly assumed managerial duties in addition to his teaching responsibilities as the school's teaching principal. Mike was a fitting choice when a full-time principal position opened a short time later at the nearby William Allen School, where he served for 6 years before being promoted to assistant superintendent of the city's school system. A dozen years later, he made a seamless transition to superintendent of all Rochester schools.

As superintendent, Mike has retained a deep connection to the classroom, even in a sprawling district comprised of 11 public schools with over 4,400 children and 800 employees. He is a constant presence in the halls of city schools, and teachers are quick to point out how his caring, compassion, and guidance make it easier for them to fulfill their essential roles as educators. He has also forged meaningful relationships outside school walls with business and nonprofit leaders in the Greater Rochester region, all in an effort to strengthen the educational programs he is able to offer to students.

Under Mike's leadership, Rochester schools have been quick to adapt to a changing learning landscape, embracing technology and alternative educational methods in order to provide the best education possible to city students. He has been influential in developing training programs at Spaulding High School's Creteau Regional Center that pair bright high school students with local businesses looking to grow. This is an approach that can help satisfy demands statewide for a capable, qualified workforce.

Mike has accomplished so much in his four decades in the Lilac City schools. Words like visionary, innovator, and community builder are often used to describe his tenure; yet, if one were to ask Rochester teachers, staff, administrators, school board members, and residents about Mike Hopkins, one quality emerges more often than the others: his humility. Mike always put the interests of students and teachers first, and when he found success, he was always eager to share credit with others. He was driven by a desire to better the lives of students, and his impact on the Rochester community will be felt for years to come.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Mike Hopkins for his service and wishing him all the best as he begins a well-deserved retirement. ●

RECOGNIZING THE ANCHORAGE NORTH STARS

● Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize and congratulate an incredible group of young Alaskans on their victory in the 2019 USA Hockey National Championship. On April 8, 2019,

the Anchorage North Stars beat the McKinney North Stars of Texas 4-3 to win the Youth Tier II 16U National Championship.

USA Hockey is the major governing body for ice hockey in the United States. There are almost 600,000 players across the various age groups. Make no mistake; the best youth hockey players in the country were competing in this tournament, which makes the North Stars' victory all the more significant.

The Anchorage North Stars traveled nearly 4,000 miles to compete with 11 other teams for the title. Early on in the tournament, during round-robin play, the Anchorage North Stars lost to the McKinney North Stars in a hard-fought 3-2 battle. However, like many great sports stories, the Anchorage North Stars found redemption.

Late in the championship game, the teams were tied 3-3, but Hayden Fox, who had already scored one goal in the third period, scored the game-winning goal for the Anchorage North Stars with less than a minute left on the clock. The Anchorage North Stars held their lead and came home with a national championship, the first for an Alaska youth hockey team since the mid-90's.

Hockey is a way of life for many Alaskan families. Many of these players have been in the sport since they were young kids. The North Stars' victory is a testament to the years of hard work and commitment by each and every player and coach, not to mention all the support from parents and other family members who were there from the beginning providing support, driving the players to and from practice, and cheering them on to victory. This achievement was a long time in the making, and I think it is important to recognize that kind of dedication.

Throughout the season, the North Stars adhered to two mottos—"Let's Leave No Doubt" and "Together We Can." This spirit of confidence and comradeship took the North Stars all the way to the final round, and they showed the entire country what kind of team they are. They performed at the highest level on the biggest stage, and I think it is safe to say that there is no one doubting them now. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 986. An act to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force of effect.

H.R. 2157. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 986. An act to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

H.R. 2157. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1261. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2019; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-1262. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2018-2019 Marketing Area" ((7 CFR Part 985) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0073)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1263. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order; Reallocation of Council Membership" ((7 CFR Part 1209) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1264. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program: Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances for 2017 NOSB Recommendations (Livestock and Handling)" ((7 CFR Part 205) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-17-0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1265. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to

violations of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2013–2015 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Navy funds and was assigned case number 17–01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–1266. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, “Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account” and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1267. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1268. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment” (RIN0790–AK40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1269. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1270. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of Community Eligibility; Oklahoma: Tulsa, City of Osage, Rogers, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties” ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2019–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1271. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1272. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendments to Federal Implementation Plan for Managing Air Emissions from True Minor Sources in Indian Country Oil & Natural Gas Production and Natural Gas Processing Segments of O&NG Sector” (FRL No. 9993–43–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1273. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Lake County Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9993–54–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1274. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants” (NUREG–0700, 0711, and 0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May

9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1275. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress: The Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1276. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1277. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, five (5) reports relative to vacancies in the Millennium Challenge Corporation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1278. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Terminated and Insolvent Multiemployer Plans and Duties of Plan Sponsors” (RIN1212–AB38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department’s 2017 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1280. A communication from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Agency’s 2017 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1281. A communication from the Director of National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2018 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interests and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) and on Apportionment of Membership for Regional Fishery Management Councils”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1282. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Elimination of Obligation to File Broadcast Mid-Term Report (Form 397) Under Section 73.2080(f) (2); Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative” ((FCC 19–10) (MB Docket Nos. 18–23 and 17–105)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1283. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2019 Annual Review and Revisions to Methodology” ((RIN1625–AC49) (Docket No. USCG–2018–0665)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–53. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to take any further actions necessary to advance the project of a new pipeline to bring Snake River water to Mountain Home Air Force Base through additional congressional action to authorize construction and provide further Military Construction (MILCON) Funds; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

Whereas, the Mountain Home Air Force Base draws its water supply from the Mountain Home Aquifer. The aquifer is over-drafted by about 30,000 acre-feet annually and is declining approximately two feet per year; and

Whereas, there are water quality issues in some of the wells that the Mountain Home Air Force Base depends on for its water supply. Of the six main wells that are on the base, only two are safe sources of drinking water and four are contaminated. Of the four contaminated wells, one is high in nitrates and is used strictly for irrigation, and the other three are high in nitrates and perfluorinated compounds; and

Whereas, the state, in partnership with the United States Air Force is working on the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Supply Project. The purpose of the project is to provide a sustainable, long-term water supply for the base from the Snake River and to eliminate the base’s reliance on the declining Mountain Home Aquifer; and

Whereas, the project consists of a pump station at C.J. Strike Reservoir and a 14.4 mile long pipeline to bring Snake River water to the base, as well as construction of a water treatment plant at the base; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that the state will build, own, maintain, and operate the pipeline and the pumps and that the United States Air Force will build, operate, and maintain the water treatment plant, as well as anything downstream of the plant; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base is one of the largest employers in Idaho. According to a 2016 study, the base is responsible for the direct employment of 4,686 personnel, supports an additional 190 jobs in local businesses that directly supply the base’s operations, and is responsible for 2,127 jobs supported by the consumer spending of those who are directly and indirectly employed by the base; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base has been estimated to support the employment of more than 10,500 individuals; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base generates \$462 million in labor income; \$797 million in all forms of income including wages, salaries, interest, rent, and profit; and an output of goods and services valued at \$965 million; and

Whereas, a 2010 Economic Impact Analysis by the United States Air Force, assisted by Boise State University, shows that the estimated annual economic impact from the Mountain Home Air Force Base is approximately \$1.02 billion; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho and the Department of Commerce recognize that continued economic viability requires taking care of existing business before expanding economic development and attracting new business; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that there could be another round of Base Realignment and Closure in the near future; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base has many strong attributes, such as great airspace, many clear weather days suitable for flying, and low possibility of encroachment around the base; and

Whereas, the uncertainty of a dependable water supply necessary for future operation is the only weakness that jeopardizes the future of Mountain Home Air Force Base: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we support the construction of a new pipeline to bring Snake River water to Mountain Home Air Force Base to ensure the long-term viability of the base; and be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature urges the congressional delegation for the State of Idaho to take any further actions necessary to advance the pipeline project through additional congressional action to authorize construction and provide further Military Construction (MILCON) Funds; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-54. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to enact legislation removing cannabis from the Federal Controlled Substances Act and facilitate the full spectrum of private banking services for cannabis-related business; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

Whereas, 33 states, four United States territories, and the District of Columbia have authorized the use of medical cannabis; twenty-two states, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia have decriminalized cannabis; and 10 states, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and three Native American tribes have legalized adult use of cannabis; and

Whereas, data submitted by the Hawai'i Attorney General to the United States Department of Justice over the past decade indicates that there are over 1,000 arrests for cannabis possession in Hawai'i each year, including hundreds of juveniles who might not otherwise encounter the criminal justice system, and that Native Hawaiians are disproportionately arrested for cannabis possession; and

Whereas, Hawai'i enacted Act 228, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2000, which authorized the acquisition, possession, and use of medical cannabis, and authorized the establishment and regulation of medical cannabis dispensaries through Act 241, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015; and

Whereas, there are currently over 24,000 medical cannabis patients registered with the Hawai'i Department of Health; and

Whereas, continued scheduling of cannabis under the federal Controlled Substances Act impairs the ability of medical cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses to operate without the prospect of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement and prosecutorial actions; and

Whereas, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of the federal Controlled Substances Act and have significant negative impacts on individual and public health,

including physical injuries, psychological and social harm, and the onset of chronic, often fatal illnesses related to regular use; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's medical cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods, services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related businesses, are hampered by the inability to obtain the full spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in recent years by members of Congress to facilitate the full spectrum of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-related businesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, that this body hereby requests the United States Congress to enact legislation that will remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act and facilitate the full spectrum of private banking services for cannabis-related business: and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leaders and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this Concurrent Resolution be printed in the Congressional Record.

POM-55. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to vote to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 102

Whereas, the growth and abuse of federal regulatory authority threatens our constitutional liberties, including those guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments of our Constitution; and

Whereas, federal regulators must be more accountable to elected representatives of the people and not immune from such accountability; and

Whereas, the United States House of Representatives has passed the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act to require that Congress approve major new federal regulations before they can take effect; and

Whereas, even if enacted, a law may be repealed or waived by a future Congress and President; and

Whereas, an amendment to the United States Constitution does not require the President's approval and cannot be waived by a future Congress and President: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to vote to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution as follows:

Whenever one quarter of the members of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate transmits to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate to adopt that regulation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-56. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota rescinding certain previous applications made by the Legislature to the United States Congress calling for a constitutional convention, or convention of the states, for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, in 1907, adopted House Joint Resolution 2; in 1909, adopted House Joint Resolutions 5 and 7; and in 1971, adopted House Joint Resolution 503, making formal application to Congress to call an Article V constitutional convention for the purpose of altering the Constitution of the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that House Joint Resolution 2, adopted in 1907; House Joint Resolutions 5 and 7, adopted in 1909; and House Joint Resolution 503, adopted in 1971, of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, be rescinded; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the South Dakota congressional delegation, and the Governor of the State of South Dakota, attesting the adoption of this resolution by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota.

POM-57. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the President of the United States and United States Congress to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing pursuant to the 1866 Mining Act on lands under their respective administrations without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing easement rights; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 106

Whereas, approximately 63% of land in the State of Idaho is public land controlled by the United States, primarily by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, which makes the right to cross federal land for delivery of water rights to Idaho water users extremely important; and

Whereas, the law of the United States, since the 1866 Mining Act, has recognized that a water user in the arid West has the right to divert water from the rivers and streams across federal land for use on private property for, among other purposes, mining and agriculture. When the water user has a water right appropriated under state law, the law provides that a water user needs no approval from the federal government for the diversion and beneficial use of the water on the user's private property; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended, in 1976, which explicitly recognizes and protects easements and rights existing on federal

lands and recognizes under previous laws, such as the 1866 Mining Act, to deliver water appropriated under state law across federal land to private property; and

Whereas, Congress passed an amendment to FLPMA in 1986 known as the Colorado Ditch Bill Act, which explicitly directs the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a permanent easement for a water system involving reservoirs, canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, tunnels, and other facilities and systems, for the impoundment, storage, transportation, and distribution of water traversing federal lands within the National Forest System when: (1) the water system is used for agricultural irrigation or livestock purposes; (2) the system that existed in 1976 has remained in operation; (3) any enlargement of the system after 1976 requires separate authorization; (4) the user has a valid state water right; and (5) the use involves some private land. The water users were to supply the Forest Service with evidence of the location of easements; and

Whereas, the state of Idaho has had a comprehensive method for recognizing the appropriation of waters of the state for beneficial use under the priority doctrine since before statehood; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho recognized in 1984 the need to adjudicate the water rights of this state and the Legislature directed the Department of Water Resources to initiate the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA), as provided by Idaho law, to facilitate the effective management of the waters of the Snake River Basin and to engage in a comprehensive adjudication of all surface and groundwater use in the basin; and

Whereas, the United States was a party to the SRBA, is bound by the decrees of the SRBA court, and must recognize the water rights of the Idaho water users as decreed by the SRBA court; and

Whereas, the SRBA issued more than 167,000 water rights and issued its final unified decree in 2014, in which the SRBA court decreed water rights with priority rights dating back, in some instances, to the 1860s; and

Whereas, Congress further directed that applications under the Colorado Ditch Bill Act by easement holders be submitted by the end of 1996 to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in issuing permanent easements; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Agriculture has not issued or recognized many of these permanent easements, even though the water rights have been decreed by the SRBA court and the applications have been submitted as required by Congress more than 20 years ago; and

Whereas, certain interest groups are arguing that the secretary must take actions harmful to the pre-FLPMA easement holders because the secretary has not issued the mandated easements; and

Whereas, the vast majority of surface water rights in this state were decreed with priority dates that preceded the enactment of FLPMA in 1976, and those water uses are entitled to the right to cross federal lands to deliver their state water rights; and

Whereas, there are many Idaho water users, such as the members of the Salmon Headwaters Conservation Association, that properly complied with the easement requirements specified by the Colorado Ditch Bill Act to have their permanent easement recognized by the United States, but are now required to further expend resources on legal and administrative processes to defend and protect their valid existing Idaho water rights and associated rights-of-way across federal land; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Represent-

atives concurring therein, that we urge the President of the United States and Congress to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing pursuant to the 1866 Mining Act on lands under their respective administrations without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing easement rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the President and Congress take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing prior to FLPMA on lands within the National Forest System without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing rights; and be it further

Resolved, That in recognition that the Secretary of Agriculture has not acted on applications submitted more than 20 years ago, the President and Congress are urged to take such action as necessary to extend the deadline for filing applications under FLPMA for an additional two years; and be it further

Resolved, That the President and Congress are urged to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of Agriculture to refrain from interfering with the use of any decreed water right by attempting under any federal law to attach conditions on any 1866 Mining Act or FLPMA easements crossing federal lands, especially in a manner that restricts or conditions in any way the use of water on private land as authorized by state laws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Agriculture, and to the Secretary of the Interior.

POM-58. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the pledges made by the United States in the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE PAPER 1047

Whereas, the year 2016 was the hottest year in the modern temperature record; and

Whereas, there is increasing consensus among scientists and economists that there will be serious economic consequences if we fail to reduce global carbon emissions quickly; and

Whereas, a changing climate will irreversibly damage the global economy; and

Whereas, if left unaddressed, the consequences of a rising global temperature have the potential to adversely affect all Americans, hitting vulnerable populations hardest, hurting working families and harming productivity in middle class job sectors such as construction, agriculture and tourism, among others; and

Whereas, there has been an increase in extreme weather events across the United States that have affected supply chains, consumer behaviors and local economies; and

Whereas, the Paris Agreement provides a pathway forward to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas, the Paris Agreement sends a powerful signal to the world that climate change is an immediate problem facing the planet; and

Whereas, if the United States withdraws from the Paris Agreement, the United States

will face an international diplomatic backlash and will cede leadership on climate change and renewable energy issues to China; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to respectfully request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress work with our allies that signed the Paris Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That We respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States not issue an Executive Order withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald John Trump, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-59. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of Coconut Creek, Florida urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

*Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

*Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1438. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1439. A bill to reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1440. A bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend,

and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1441. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 1444. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. KING):

S. 1445. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to manage effectively the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1446. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1447. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1448. A bill to require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1449. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require warning labels for prescription opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1450. A bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1451. A bill to prohibit the issuance of F or J visas to researchers affiliated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1452. A bill to establish a program to provide assistance for education and research harbors; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1454. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to add a representative of the Department of Homeland Security from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on the Technical Guidelines Development Committee; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1455. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1456. A bill to require the appropriation of funds to use a fee, fine, penalty, or proceeds from a settlement received by a Federal agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1457. A bill to provide for interagency coordination on risk mitigation in the communications equipment and services marketplace and the supply chain thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1458. A bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1459. A bill to control the export to the People's Republic of China of certain technology and intellectual property important to the national interest of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1460. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan that does not include investment in any fossil fuel companies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1461. A bill to require health insurance coverage for the treatment of infertility; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1462. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in the commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1463. A bill to establish a scorekeeping rule to ensure that increases in guarantee fees of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac shall not be used to offset provisions that increase the deficit; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1464. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1465. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1466. A bill to establish a grant program within the Department of Labor to support the creation, implementation, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in cybersecurity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1467. A bill to require a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Defense and designated relatives and friends of members of the Armed Forces regarding the experiences and challenges of military service, particularly during and after overseas deployments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1468. A bill to support the successful implementation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement in Cambodia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1470. A bill to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S.J. Res. 21. A joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto, a limitation on the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve, and requiring a vote of two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of Congress on any legislation raising or imposing new taxes or fees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Bahrain of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 23. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the Czech Republic of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the Czech Republic of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Qatar of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 205. A resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 206. A resolution marking the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, expressing concern about significant violations of international humanitarian law on contemporary battlefields, and encouraging United States leadership in ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law in current conflicts, particularly with its security partners; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 207. A resolution congratulating the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Senate staff on the 15-year anniversary of the association; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July as "American Grown Flower Month"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 209. A resolution designating the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as "National Police Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 210. A resolution supporting the designation of May 15, 2019, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent schemes targeting seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those schemes, and to improve protections from those schemes for seniors; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 63

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 63, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 469

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to allow penalty-free distributions from retirement accounts in the case of certain Federal contractors impacted by Federal Government shutdowns.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 509, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to provide investment authority to support rural infrastructure development, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain member banks from using discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 851

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications

systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "family farmer".

S. 904

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 904, a bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to prepare and submit periodic reports to Congress on the role of telecommunications in hate crimes.

S. 932

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings.

S. 997

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the

use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1049

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1172, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 1188

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 1191

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1227

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 1231

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1231, a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1365

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1365, a bill to provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1409

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 1429

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1429, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 183

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 183, a resolution reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 189

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 189, a resolution condemning all forms of antisemitism.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1438. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, along with my friend Senator ENZI, the “Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act.”

Breast cancer remains one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women. One in eight women will receive a diagnosis during her lifetime—and more than 40,000 women will die from the disease this year.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp was first issued in 1998 and has since raised almost \$90 million for research into new, innovative treatments for breast cancer.

A 2018 study that was partially funded by revenue from stamp sales found that most women diagnosed with a common early-stage breast cancer do not actually need chemotherapy as a part of their cancer treatment. Results from this study are expected to spare up to 70,000 U.S. patients a year from the cost and side effects associated with chemotherapy without it hurting their chances of beating the disease.

Think about it. Simply purchasing a stamp could help spare thousands of women the pain they may experience when undergoing chemotherapy and side effects that range from hair loss to long-term organ damage. Not to mention the expense, with one basic round

of chemo costing anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The stamp’s ability to fund critical research like this study helps us take big steps forward in treating breast cancer for only a few more cents over the standard price of sending a letter.

As we come back to work after Mother’s Day, I invite the Senate to pause and remember all the women who have faced a diagnosis of breast cancer, not knowing what the outcome would be. I applaud as well the family and friends who have tirelessly supported them.

The Breast Cancer Stamp currently costs 65 cents, 10 cents more than a traditional Forever stamp. The additional 10 cents helps support breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense’s Medical Research Program. Our bill would reauthorize the stamp for 8 more years through 2027.

For these women and their families, this stamp is as meaningful to them as it is impactful to how we combat the disease now and in the future.

I am honored to be joined by Senators BALDWIN, BARRASSO, CAPITO, CASEY, CRAMER, COLLINS, DAINES, DUCKWORTH, DURBIN, GRASSLEY, HASSAN, HIRONO, HYDE-SMITH, KLOBUCHAR, ROSEN, SCHATZ, SHAHEEN, STABENOW, and TESTER.

I am very grateful for supporters of this bill, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American College of Surgeons, Susan G. Komen, the American Association for Cancer Research, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Are You Dense, Inc.

As we celebrate the mothers in our lives this week, I urge my colleagues to join us in taking meaningful action to improve women’s health.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as we pause this week to remember the 10 people who lost their lives and the 13 people who were wounded 1 year ago, we should reflect on what has changed but also on what still needs to be done to stop this epidemic of mass shootings and school shootings, in particular.

Last year I was very proud that Congress authorized nearly \$1 billion in school safety funding—legislation that I was a cosponsor of. That is nearly \$1 billion that schools can use to improve school safety, including hardening doors so that shooters can’t shoot through the school doors anymore, shrinking the number of entrances and exits, installing metal detectors, and hiring armed police officers to keep our kids safe. That was an important first step, but we need to do more.

That is why I am reintroducing this week two important bills. First, I am reintroducing legislation to authorize more funding for school safety and to enable greater targeting of the felons and fugitives who try to buy firearms illegally. If a felon or fugitive tries to purchase a firearm illegally, that felon or fugitive should be prosecuted and they should be put in Federal jail.

In 2013, my first year in the Senate, I introduced legislation with my friend Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa to create a gun crime task force at the Federal Department of Justice to ensure that Federal convictions are in the national database and to direct the Department of Justice to prosecute the felons and fugitives who try to illegally buy guns and to put them in jail before they can take the lives of more innocents. Sadly, cynically, Senate Democrats filibustered that legislation. They prevented it from passing into law by demanding a 60-vote threshold.

In light of the tragedies of Santa Fe, Parkland, and Highlands Ranch High School, just last week, I urge my colleagues to join me in making this commonsense bill law in this Congress. Let’s direct law enforcement resources to stop violent criminals before they commit more heinous murders.

I am also reintroducing the bipartisan School Security Enhancement Act with Democratic Senator DOUG JONES, which would allow local communities to utilize student support and academic enrichment grants to reinforce school safety infrastructure and technology. Installing metal detectors, bulletproof doors and windows, and establishing an efficient system for communicating important information to law enforcement and to parents are all important steps in improving school safety.

I hope we can join together and pass these bills so that our students are safer, and so we can do more to prevent future mass shootings.

What happened in Santa Fe a year ago was a tragedy. On the night of the shooting, there was a candlelight prayer vigil in the community at a public park in downtown Santa Fe. Even as you saw families grieving and in unspeakable agony, and their hearts breaking, you also saw people coming together. When I was at the vigil that night, as you wept and mourned with students and parents experiencing the ultimate agony, you saw at the same time students and parents in the community leaning on each other, holding each other, holding each other up, praying alongside each other, praying with each other, and giving thanks for the heroism and strength. I think that is the only way a community makes it out of a tragedy like that.

The last year has been an extremely difficult year for the Santa Fe families and the community. That morning is indelibly marked onto that community. At the same time, they have been able to lean on each other, to rely on each other, to support each other, and to lift each other up in prayer.

I want to conclude by saying to the families in Santa Fe: We are with you. We support you. We love you, and we are there for you.

To my colleagues in Congress, we need to unite together to make our schools safer, to prosecute felons and fugitives before they commit acts of murder, and to do everything to stop this horrific mass shooting epidemic. We need to do it now. End the partisan battles. Focus on the bad guys, and stop them before more lives and innocents are taken.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. KING):

S. 1445. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to manage effectively the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1445

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Central America Reform and Enforcement Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

- Sec. 111. United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.
- Sec. 112. Authorization of appropriations for United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.
- Sec. 113. Strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption.
- Sec. 114. Combating criminal violence and improving citizen security.
- Sec. 115. Tackling extreme poverty and advancing economic development.

Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance

Sec. 121. Assistance funding available without condition.

Sec. 122. Conditions on assistance related to combating, smuggling, and providing for screening and safety of migrants.

Sec. 123. Conditions on assistance related to progress on specific issues.

Sec. 124. Additional limitations.

Sec. 125. Restrictions on reprogramming.

Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America

Sec. 131. United States Coordinator for Engagement in Central America.

Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners

Sec. 141. Requirement for strategy to secure support of international donors and partners.

TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS

Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers

Sec. 211. Enhanced international cooperation to combat human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 212. Enhanced investigation and prosecution of human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 213. Information campaign on dangers of irregular migration.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels

Sec. 221. Enhanced penalties for organized smuggling schemes.

Sec. 222. Expanding financial sanctions on narcotics trafficking and money laundering.

Sec. 223. Support for FBI transnational anti-gang task forces for countering criminal gangs.

Sec. 224. Sense of Congress regarding the expansion of targeted sanctions related to corruption and human rights abuses.

Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls

Sec. 231. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls.

TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region

Sec. 311. Strengthening internal asylum systems in Mexico and other countries.

Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement

Sec. 321. Expanding refugee processing in Mexico and Central America for third country resettlement.

Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States

Sec. 331. Program to adjust the status of certain vulnerable refugees from Central America.

TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER

Sec. 401. Definitions; authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 402. Family reunification.

Sec. 403. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government’s Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

Sec. 411. Health care in shelters for unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 412. Services to unaccompanied alien children after placement.

Sec. 413. Background checks to ensure the safe placement of unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 414. Responsibility of sponsor for immigration court compliance and child well-being.

Sec. 415. Monitoring unaccompanied alien children.

Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety

Sec. 421. Funding to States to conduct State criminal checks and child abuse and neglect checks.

Sec. 422. Unaccompanied alien children in schools.

TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMAN MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum

Sec. 511. Court appearance compliance and legal orientation.

Sec. 512. Fair day in court for kids.

Sec. 513. Access to counsel and legal orientation at detention facilities.

Sec. 514. Report on access to counsel.

Sec. 515. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court

Sec. 521. Eliminate immigration court backlogs.

Sec. 522. Improved training for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Sec. 523. New technology to improve court efficiency.

Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States

Sec. 531. Establishing reintegration and monitoring services for repatriating children.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 2008, incidents of murder, other violent crime, and corruption perpetrated by criminal networks, armed gangs and groups, and illicit trafficking organizations have remained at alarming levels in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(2) In 2017, El Salvador and Honduras—

(A) continued to be among the most violent countries in Latin America and the world, with 60 and 42 murders for every 100,000 people, respectively; and

(B) were characterized by a high prevalence of gang-related violence and crimes involving sexual and gender-based violence.

(3) El Salvador and Honduras are both among the top 3 countries in the world with the highest child homicide rates, with more than 22 and 32 deaths per 100,000 children respectively, according to the nongovernmental organization Save the Children.

(4) A November 2017 report by the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women stated that femicide “is taking on a devastating magnitude and trend in Central America, where 2 in every 3 women murdered, are killed because of their gender.”

(5) Since 2014, elevated numbers of unaccompanied minors, women, and other vulnerable individuals have fled violence in Central America’s Northern Triangle and left for the United States in search of protection.

(6) Unaccompanied minors emigrating from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

cite violence, forced gang recruitment, extortion, poverty, and lack of opportunity as reasons for leaving their home countries.

(7) Challenges to the rule of law in the Northern Triangle continue to be exacerbated by high levels of impunity related to murders and violent crime. In 2015, approximately 95 percent of murders taking place in Honduras and El Salvador remained unresolved.

(8) The presence of major drug trafficking organizations in the Northern Triangle contributes to violence, corruption, and criminality. According to the Department of State's 2017 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continue to be transit countries for illicit drugs originating from countries in South America that are destined for the United States.

(9) In June 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights found that in El Salvador, a pattern of behavior among security personnel and weak institutional responses may have resulted in extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force, with official figures indicating an alarming increase in the number of persons (alleged gang-members) who have been killed by security personnel.

(10) Widespread public sector corruption in the Northern Triangle undermines economic and social development and directly affects regional political stability.

(11) Human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, social leaders, and LGBT activists in the Northern Triangle face dire conditions, as evidenced by—

(A) the March 2016 murder of the prominent Honduran environmental activist, Berta Caceres; and

(B) the ongoing targeted killing of civil society leaders in all 3 countries in the Northern Triangle.

(12) The Northern Triangle struggles with high levels of economic insecurity. In 2016, 60.9 percent of Hondurans and 38 percent of Salvadorans lived below the poverty line. In 2014, 59.3 percent of Guatemalans lived below the poverty line.

(13) Weak investment climates, low levels of tax collection, and low levels of educational opportunity are barriers to inclusive economic growth and social development in the Northern Triangle.

(14) In January 2018 and May 2018, the Trump Administration announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status designations for Honduras and El Salvador, respectively, which would affect more than 500,000 individuals and their United States citizen children who may have to return to dangerous conditions in those countries.

(15) In a November 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security, then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that as a result of ending Temporary Protected Status, the Governments of El Salvador and Honduras “may take retaliatory actions counter to our long-standing national security and economic interests like withdrawing their counternarcotics and anti-gang cooperation with the United States, reducing their willingness to accept the return of their deported citizens, or refraining from efforts to control illegal migration.”

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support is necessary to address irregular migration by addressing the violence and humanitarian crisis in the Northern Triangle, which has resulted in the elevated numbers of Central American unaccompanied children, women, and other refugees and migrants arriving at the Southwestern border of the United States;

(2) the violence and humanitarian crisis is linked to the severe challenges posed by—

(A) high rates of homicide, sexual and gender-based violence, and violent crime perpetrated by armed criminal actors, including drug trafficking organizations and criminal gangs, such as the MS-13 and 18th Street gangs;

(B) endemic corruption carried out by organized networks and the weak rule of law, including the limited institutional capacity of national police forces, public prosecutors, and court systems; and

(C) the limited capabilities and lack of political will on the part of Northern Triangle governments to establish the rule of law, guarantee security, and ensure the well-being of their citizens;

(3) the United States must work with international partners—

(A) to address the complicated conditions in the Northern Triangle that contribute to the violence and humanitarian crisis; and

(B) to guarantee protections for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, fleeing violence in the region;

(4) the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, which was developed by the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank, represents a comprehensive approach to address the complex situation in the Northern Triangle;

(5) the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, as first developed by President Obama and Vice President Biden, provides important support for the Alliance for Prosperity and other United States national security priorities, including rule of law and anti-corruption initiatives;

(6) President Trump's decision to reduce United States foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras from funding levels set in fiscal years 2017 and 2018—

(A) poses a serious risk to United States national security; and

(B) will damage the efforts of the United States to address the underlying conditions causing citizens of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to flee their homelands and migrate to the United States;

(7) the Trump Administration's proposed cuts in United States foreign assistance for Central America for fiscal year 2020, if implemented, would undermine the United States ability to work with the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to address critical United States national security priorities and the factors driving migration to the United States;

(8) the Trump Administration must reverse its decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status designations for El Salvador and Honduras in order to prevent negative consequences to United States foreign policy objectives;

(9) the United States should partner with the Government of Mexico—

(A) to strengthen Mexico's internal asylum system; and

(B) ensure that Mexico upholds international and humanitarian standards;

(10) combating corruption in the Northern Triangle must remain a critical priority and the United States must continue its public and financial support for the United Nation's Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) as part of this effort;

(11) the Government of Guatemala should reverse its efforts—

(A) to terminate CICIG's mandate; and

(B) to undermine the effectiveness of CICIG's ongoing operations, including prohibiting the current CICIG Commissioner from entering the country; and

(12) it is imperative for the United States to implement a multi-year strategy and sustain a long-term commitment to addressing the underlying factors causing Central Americans to flee their countries by strengthening citizen security, the rule of law, democratic governance, the protection of human rights, and inclusive economic growth in the Northern Triangle.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given the term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(2) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The term “Northern Triangle” means El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(3) PLACEMENT.—The term “placement” means the placement of an unaccompanied alien child with a sponsor.

(4) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle.

(5) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means a sponsor referred to in section 462(b)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(4)).

(6) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

SEC. 111. UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a 5-year, interagency strategy, titled “the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America”, to advance reforms in Central American countries that address the factors driving migration.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under subsection (a) shall include efforts to—

(1) strengthen the rule of law, improve access to justice, and bolster the effectiveness and independence of judicial systems and public prosecutors' offices, and the effectiveness of civilian police forces;

(2) combat corruption and improve public sector transparency;

(3) confront and counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and organized crime;

(4) disrupt money laundering operations and the illicit financial operations of criminal networks, armed gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers;

(5) strengthen democratic governance and promote greater respect for internationally recognized human rights, labor rights, fundamental freedoms, and the media, including through the protection of human rights and environmental defenders, other civil society activists, and journalists;

(6) enhance the capability of Central American governments to protect and provide for vulnerable and at-risk populations;

(7) address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality;

(8) address the constraints to inclusive economic growth in Central America;

(9) prevent and respond to endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence; and

(10) enhance accountability for government officials, including security force personnel, credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights or other crimes.

(c) **COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.**—In formulating the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall—

(1) coordinate with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and

(2) consult with the Director of National Intelligence.

(d) **SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS.**—To the degree feasible, the strategy under subsection (a) shall support or complement efforts being carried out by the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under the Plan, in coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

(e) **PRIORITIZATION.**—The strategy under subsection (a) shall prioritize programs and initiatives to address the key factors in Central American countries that contribute to the flight of unaccompanied alien children and other individuals to the United States.

SEC. 112. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out the strategy described in section 111.

SEC. 113. STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND COMBATING CORRUPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, consolidate democratic governance, and defend human rights.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening the rule of law in Central American countries by providing support for—

(A) the Office of the Attorney General, public prosecutors, judges, and courts in each such country, including the enhancement of their forensics capabilities and services;

(B) reforms leading to independent, merit-based, selection processes for judges and prosecutors, independent internal controls, and relevant ethics and professional training, including training on sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the improvement of victim and witness protection and access to justice; and

(D) the reform and improvement of prison facilities and management;

(2) combating corruption by providing support for—

(A) inspectors general and oversight institutions, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors;

(B) international commissions against impunity, including the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and the Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras;

(C) civil society watchdogs conducting oversight of executive branch officials and functions, police and security forces, and judicial officials and public prosecutors; and

(D) the enhancement of freedom of information mechanisms;

(3) consolidating democratic governance by providing support for—

(A) the reform of civil services, related training programs, and relevant career laws and processes that lead to independent, merit-based, selection processes;

(B) national legislatures and their capacity to conduct oversight of executive branch functions;

(C) the reform and strengthening of political party and campaign finance laws and electoral tribunals; and

(D) local governments and their capacity to provide critical safety, education, health, and sanitation services to citizens; and

(4) defending human rights by providing support for—

(A) human rights ombudsman offices;

(B) government protection programs that provide physical protection to human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and civil society activists at risk;

(C) civil society organizations that promote and defend human rights, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, labor rights, environmental protection, and LGBT rights; and

(D) civil society organizations that address sexual, domestic, and inter-partner violence against women and protect victims of such violence.

SEC. 114. COMBATING CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND IMPROVING CITIZEN SECURITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) professionalizing civilian police forces by providing support for—

(A) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes;

(B) inspectors general and oversight offices, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors, and independent oversight mechanisms, as appropriate;

(C) community policing policies and programs;

(D) the establishment of special vetted units;

(E) training and the development of protocols regarding the appropriate use of force and human rights;

(F) training on civilian intelligence collection (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties), investigative techniques, forensic analysis, and evidence preservation;

(G) training on the management of complex, multi-actor criminal cases; and

(H) equipment, such as nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(2) countering illicit trafficking by providing assistance to the civilian law enforcement and armed forces of Central American countries, including support for—

(A) the establishment of special vetted units;

(B) the enhancement of intelligence collection capacity (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties);

(C) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting, and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes; and

(D) port, airport, and border security systems, including—

(i) computer infrastructure and data management systems;

(ii) secure communications technologies;

(iii) nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(iv) radar and aerial surveillance equipment;

(v) canine units; and

(vi) training on the equipment, technologies, and systems listed in clauses (i) through (v);

(3) disrupting illicit financial networks, including by providing support for—

(A) finance ministries, including the enhancement of the capacity to use financial sanctions to block the assets of individuals and organizations involved in money laundering and the financing of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, human smugglers, and organized crime;

(B) financial intelligence units, including the establishment and enhancement of anti-money laundering programs; and

(C) the reform of bank secrecy laws; and

(4) improving crime prevention by providing support for—

(A) educational initiatives to reduce sexual and gender-based violence;

(B) the enhancement of police and judicial capacity to identify, investigate, and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the enhancement of programs for at-risk and criminal-involved youth, including the improvement of community centers throughout El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and

(D) alternative livelihood programs.

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) operational technology transferred to governments in Central America for intelligence or law enforcement purposes should be used solely for the purposes for which the technology was intended;

(2) the United States should take all necessary steps to ensure that the use of operation technology described in paragraph (1) is consistent with United States law, including protections of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of association; and

(3) the assistance to Central American armed forces described in subsection (c)(2) should be limited to assistance that relates to—

(A) the armed forces activities to combat illicit maritime and riverine trafficking; and

(B) illicit trafficking occurring at national borders.

SEC. 115. TACKLING EXTREME POVERTY AND ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$400,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to improve economic development and the underlying causes of poverty.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening human capital, including by providing support for—

(A) workforce development and entrepreneurship training programs that are driven by market demand, specifically programs that prioritize women, at-risk youth, and minorities;

(B) improving early-grade literacy and the improvement of primary and secondary school curricula;

(C) relevant professional training for teachers and educational administrators; and

(D) educational policy reform and improvement of education sector budgeting;

(2) enhancing economic competitiveness and investment climate by providing support for—

(A) small business development centers and programs that strengthen supply chain integration;

(B) trade facilitation and customs harmonization programs;

(C) reducing energy costs through investments in clean technologies and the reform of energy policies and regulations;

(D) the improvement of protections for investors, including dispute resolution and arbitration mechanisms; and

(E) the improvement of labor and environmental standards, in accordance with the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement;

(3) strengthening food security, including by providing support for—

(A) small-scale agriculture, including—

(i) technical training;

(ii) initiatives that facilitate access to credit; and

(iii) policies and programs that incentivize government agencies and private institutions to buy from local producers;

(B) agricultural value chain development for farming communities;

(C) nutrition programs to reduce childhood stunting rates; and

(D) investment in scientific research on climate change and climate resiliency; and

(4) improving the state of fiscal and financial affairs, including by providing support for—

(A) domestic revenue generation, including programs to improve tax administration, collection, and enforcement;

(B) strengthening public sector financial management, including strategic budgeting and expenditure tracking; and

(C) reform of customs and procurement policies and processes.

Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance

SEC. 121. ASSISTANCE FUNDING AVAILABLE WITHOUT CONDITION.

The Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, may obligate up to 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.

SEC. 122. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO COMBATING, SMUGGLING, AND PROVIDING FOR SCREENING AND SAFETY OF MIGRANTS.

(a) NOTIFICATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be made available under sections 121 and 123, 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps, in addition to steps taken during previous years, to—

(1) combat human smuggling and trafficking, including investigating, prosecuting, and increasing penalties for individuals responsible for such crimes;

(2) improve border security and border screening to detect and deter illicit smuggling and trafficking, while respecting the rights of individuals fleeing violence and seeking humanitarian protection asylum, in accordance with international law;

(3) cooperate with United States Government agencies and other governments in the region to facilitate the safe and timely repatriation of migrants who do not qualify for refugee or other protected status, in accordance with international law;

(4) improve reintegration services, in open partnership with civil society organizations, for repatriated migrants in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of the individual and reduces the likelihood of repeated migration to the United States; and

(5) cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to improve protections for, and the processing of, vulnerable populations, particularly women and children fleeing violence.

SEC. 123. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

(a) EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be obligated under sections 121 and 122, 50 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to, the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps in their respective countries, in addition to steps taken during the previous calendar year, to—

(1) combat corruption, including investigating and prosecuting government officials, military personnel, and civilian police officers credibly alleged to be corrupt;

(2) implement reforms and strengthen the rule of law, including increasing the capacity and independence of the judiciary and public prosecutors;

(3) counter the activities of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime;

(4) establish and implement a plan to create a professional, accountable civilian police force and curtail the role of the military in internal policing;

(5) investigate and prosecute, through the civilian justice system, military and police personnel who are credibly alleged to have violated human rights, and to ensure that the military and the police are cooperating in such cases;

(6) counter and prevent sexual and gender-based violence;

(7) cooperate, as appropriate, with international human rights entities and international commissions against impunity, including the United Nation's Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), and any other similar entities that may be established;

(8) implement electoral and political reforms, including reforms related to improving the transparency of financing political campaigns and political parties;

(9) protect the right of political opposition parties, journalists, trade unionists, human rights defenders, and other civil society activists to operate without interference;

(10) increase government revenues, including by enhancing tax collection, strengthening customs agencies, and reforming procurement processes;

(11) implement reforms to strengthen educational systems, vocational training programs, and programs for at-risk youth;

(12) resolve commercial disputes, including the confiscation of real property, between United States entities and the respective governments; and

(13) implement a policy by which local communities, civil society organizations (including indigenous and marginalized groups), and local governments are consulted in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the activities of the Plan that affect such communities, organizations, or governments.

(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The Secretary of State may not certify that the Government of Guatemala is taking effective steps to address the issues listed in subsection (a) until after the Government of Guatemala—

(1) extends the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) beyond 2019; and

(2) permits the CICIG Commissioner and CICIG staff to carry out their work with government obstruction.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The certification and reporting requirements under subsection (a) and section 122(a) shall not apply to the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 for assistance to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala and the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras.

SEC. 124. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.

(a) DEPORTATIONS AND REPATRIATIONS.—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this title may be used or transferred to any other Federal agency to assist in the removal or repatriation of any individual from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country.

(b) FUND TRANSFERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may not transfer amounts appropriated for the Department of State to any account managed by the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of assisting in the deportation or repatriation of any foreign person from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country, absent a specific authorization from Congress for such transfer.

SEC. 125. RESTRICTIONS ON REPROGRAMMING.

(a) UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 may not be reprogrammed for any activities other than those authorized under this title.

(b) BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may not reprogram amounts made available for assistance for El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under—

(1) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (division F of Public Law 116-6);

(2) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018 (division K of Public Law 115-141);

(3) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (division J of Public Law 115-31); or

(4) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114-113).

Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America

SEC. 131. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the President shall designate a senior official to coordinate all of the Federal Government's efforts, including coordination with international partners—

(1) to strengthen citizen security, the rule of law, and economic prosperity in Central America; and

(2) to protect vulnerable populations in the region.

(b) SUPERVISION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall report directly to the President.

(c) DUTIES.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall coordinate all of the efforts, activities, and programs related to United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including—

(1) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation), the Department of Homeland Security, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to dismantle and disrupt armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime responsible for high levels of violence, extortion, and corruption in Central America;

(2) coordinating with the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of violent criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations on vulnerable Central American populations, including women and children;

(3) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and international partners regarding United States efforts to counter human smugglers illegally transporting Central American migrants to the United States;

(4) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to increase protections for vulnerable Central American populations, improve refugee processing, and strengthen asylum and migration systems throughout the region;

(5) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice (including the Drug Enforcement Administration), the Department of the Treasury, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat illicit narcotics traffickers, interdict transshipments of illicit narcotics, and disrupt the financing of the illicit narcotics trade;

(6) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the intelligence community, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial networks;

(7) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to strengthen the rule of law, democratic governance, and human rights protections; and

(8) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Agency for International Development, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the Department of Labor, and international partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank, to strengthen the foundation for inclusive economic growth and improve food security, in-

vestment climate, and protections for labor rights.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall consult with Congress, multilateral organizations and institutions, foreign governments, and domestic and international civil society organizations.

Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners
SEC. 141. REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY TO SECURE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND PARTNERS.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional commitments” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a 3-year strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) describes how the United States will secure support from international donors and regional partners (including Colombia and Mexico) for the implementation of the Plan;

(2) identifies governments that are willing to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the Plan and a description of such assistance; and

(3) identifies the financial and technical assistance to be provided by multilateral institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Andean Development Corporation—Development Bank of Latin America, and the Organization of American States, and a description of such assistance.

(c) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate, shall—

(1) carry out diplomatic engagement to secure contributions of financial and technical assistance from international donors and partners in support of the Plan; and

(2) take all necessary steps to ensure effective cooperation among international donors and partners supporting the Plan.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after submitting the strategy under subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) the progress made in implementing the strategy; and

(2) the financial and technical assistance provided by international donors and partners, including the multilateral institutions listed in subsection (b)(3).

(e) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from 1 of the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to such committee that describes the progress made in implementing the strategy submitted under subsection (b).

TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS

Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers

SEC. 211. ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall expand partnership efforts with law en-

forcement entities in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico seeking to combat human smuggling and trafficking in those countries, including—

(1) the creation or expansion of transnational criminal investigative units to identify, disrupt, and prosecute human smuggling and trafficking operations;

(2) participation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Justice in the Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative with their Mexican law enforcement counterparts; and

(3) advanced training programs for investigators and prosecutors from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

SEC. 212. ENHANCED INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall expand collaborative programs aimed at investigating and prosecuting human smugglers and traffickers targeting Central American children and families and operating at the southwestern border of the United States, including the continuation and expansion of anti-trafficking coordination teams.

(b) HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall increase the resources available to Homeland Security Investigations to facilitate the expansion of its smuggling and trafficking investigations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsections (a) and (b).

SEC. 213. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall design and implement public information campaigns in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—

(1) to disseminate information about the dangers of travel across Mexico to the United States; and

(2) to combat misinformation about United States immigration law or policy; and

(3) to provide accurate information about the right to seek asylum.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The information campaigns implemented pursuant to subsection (a) shall, to the greatest extent possible—

(1) be targeted at populations and localities with high migration rates;

(2) be in local languages;

(3) employ a variety of communications media; and

(4) be developed in consultation with program officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and other government, nonprofit, or academic entities in close contact with migrant populations from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including repatriated migrants.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels

SEC. 221. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR ORGANIZED SMUGGLING SCHEMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (A)(i) during and in relation to which the person, while acting for profit or other financial gain, knowingly directs or participates in an effort or scheme to assist or

cause 10 or more persons (other than a parent, spouse, sibling, or child of the offender) to enter or to attempt to enter the United States at the same time at a place other than a designated port of entry or place other than designated by the Secretary, be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both;"; and

(3) in clause (iv), as redesignated, by inserting "commits or attempts to commit sexual assault of," after "section 1365 of title 18, United States Code) to,".

(b) BULK CASH SMUGGLING.—Section 5332(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "TERM OF IMPRISONMENT" and inserting "IN GENERAL"; and

(2) by inserting " , fined under title 18, or both" after "5 years".

SEC. 222. EXPANDING FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING.

(a) FINANCIAL SANCTIONS EXPANSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence shall expand investigations, intelligence collection, and analysis pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to increase the identification and application of sanctions against—

(A) significant foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks; and

(B) foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks.

(2) TARGETS.—The activities described in paragraph (1) shall specifically target foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks, and the foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks that are present and operating in Central America.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

SEC. 223. SUPPORT FOR FBI TRANSNATIONAL ANTI-GANG TASK FORCES FOR COUNTERING CRIMINAL GANGS.

(a) TASK FORCE EXPANSION.—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall expand the efforts of the Transnational Anti-Gang Task Forces in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including by—

(1) expanding transnational criminal investigations focused on criminal gangs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, such as MS-13 and 18th Street;

(2) expanding training and partnership efforts with Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran law enforcement entities in order to disrupt and dismantle criminal gangs, both internationally and in their respective countries;

(3) establishing or expanding special vetted investigative units; and

(4) collecting and disseminating intelligence to support related United States-based investigations.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated, to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

SEC. 224. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF TARGETED SANCTIONS RELATED TO CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should intensify targeting of and impose sanctions regularly on a range

of foreign persons from or in Central America determined to be responsible for human rights abuses, corruption-related misconduct, and other misconduct identified pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(2) the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and other United States intelligence agencies, as appropriate, should expand intelligence collection and analysis in support of the efforts described in paragraph (1); and

(3) the efforts described in paragraph (1) should specifically target foreign persons, including foreign government officials, complicit in acts that weaken, run counter to, or undermine the strategy described in section 111.

Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls

SEC. 231. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.

(a) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 274D the following:

"SEC. 274E. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.

"(a) ILLICIT SPOTTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly surveil, track, monitor, or transmit the location, movement, or activities of any officer or employee of a Federal, State, or tribal law enforcement agency—

"(A) with the intent to gain financially; and

"(B) in furtherance of any violation of the immigration laws, the customs and trade laws of the United States (as defined in section 2 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125)), any other Federal law relating to transporting controlled substances, agriculture, or monetary instruments into the United States, or any Federal law relating to border controls measures of the United States.

"(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

"(b) DESTRUCTION OF UNITED STATES BORDER CONTROLS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly and without lawful authorization—

"(A) destroy or significantly damage any fence, barrier, sensor, camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States; or

"(B) otherwise seek to construct, excavate, or make any structure intended to defeat, circumvent or evade such a fence, barrier, sensor camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States.

"(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 274D the following:

"Sec. 274E. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls."

TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region

SEC. 311. STRENGTHENING INTERNAL ASYLUM SYSTEMS IN MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall work with international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to support and provide technical assistance to strengthen the domestic capacity of Mexico and other countries in the region to provide asylum to eligible children and families, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding temporary and long-term in-country reception centers and shelter capacity to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking asylum or other forms of international protection;

(2) improving the asylum registration system to ensure that all individuals seeking asylum or other humanitarian protection—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained asylum officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual asylum claims consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the asylum processing capabilities described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement

SEC. 321. EXPANDING REFUGEE PROCESSING IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall coordinate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support and provide technical assistance to the Government of Mexico and the governments of other countries in the region to increase access to global resettlement for eligible children and families with protection needs, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding in-country refugee reception centers to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking international protection;

(2) improving the refugee registration system to ensure that all refugees—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained refugee officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual claims for protection, consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that—

(A) such children with international protection needs are properly registered; and

(B) their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report to the committees listed in section 311(b) that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the refugee processing capabilities described in subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the conditions in Mexico, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, do not meet the necessary threshold for the United States Government to sign a safe third country agreement with the Government of Mexico; and

(2) individuals of any nationality, who enter the United States from Mexico and request humanitarian protection, such as asylum, in the United States—

(A) are not subject to section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)); and

(B) cannot be returned to Mexico while their request for humanitarian protection is pending.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States

SEC. 331. PROGRAM TO ADJUST THE STATUS OF CERTAIN VULNERABLE REFUGEES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) REFUGEE STATUS.—The term “refugee status” has the meaning given the term in

section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), except that the alien may apply inside his or her country of nationality if there is a designated application processing center present.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a refugee processing program for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to respond to country conditions and the growing need to provide an alternative to the dangerous journey to the United States of America.

(c) ADMISSION OF ELIGIBLE CENTRAL AMERICAN ALIENS AS REFUGEES.—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations set forth in sections 201, 202, and 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1157), the Secretary shall adjust the status of an alien who is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to that of an alien admitted as a refugee if the alien—

(1) applies for such refugee status at a Designated Application Processing Center (as defined in subsection (e)); and

(2) is eligible under subsection (d).

(d) CENTRAL AMERICANS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Admission as a refugee or adjustment of status to that of a refugee shall be available to any alien, or members of the alien’s family, if—

(A) the alien is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras;

(B) the alien otherwise meets the definition of a refugee, except that the alien may apply from inside his or her country of nationality;

(C)(i) the alien presents himself or herself at a Designated Application Processing Center for consideration of refugee status under this section; or

(ii) in the case of an alien who is a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the alien presents an application for the alien; and

(D) the alien passes all relevant medical, national security, and background checks.

(2) EFFECT OF DENIAL OF REFUGEE STATUS.—The denial of refugee status under the Central American Minors Program—

(A) shall not be held determinative with respect to an adjudication under this section; and

(B) shall not prejudice the results of an adjudication under this section.

(e) DESIGNATED APPLICATION PROCESSING CENTERS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a minimum of 4 Designated Application Processing Centers in 4 different physical locations in the countries referred to in paragraph (2), with the consent of the host country, if necessary.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that at least 1 Designated Application Processing Center is established in—

(A) El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico; and

(B) any other country in Central America selected by the Secretary of State.

(3) APPLICATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that any alien who is physically present at a Designated Application Processing Center is permitted—

(A) to apply for refugee status under this section;

(B) to include his or her family in the application for refugee status, regardless of such alien’s status; and

(C) if the alien applying for refugee status is an unaccompanied minor, to have legal counsel present at all interviews.

(4) ADJUDICATION.—Applications submitted at a Designated Application Processing Center under this section shall be adjudicated by refugee officers from the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(5) ADJUDICATION DEADLINES.—

(A) FIRST YEAR.—Applications submitted under this section during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated not later than 1 year after submission.

(B) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted under this section after the period described in subparagraph (A) shall be adjudicated not later than 6 months after submission.

(f) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(1)(C) shall be waived by the Secretary if the alien, or his or her family—

(1) is a national of El Salvador or Honduras;

(2) was in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) on the date on which his or her country of nationality’s designation under subsection (b) of such section was terminated;

(3) has maintained physical presence in the United States since the effectiveness date of the most recent designation, extension, or termination; and

(4) would be eligible to reapply, under such section 244, if his or her country of nationality’s designation had not been terminated.

(g) APPLICATION FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that applicants for refugee status are not charged fees in order to apply for humanitarian relief under this section.

(2) PREVIOUS DENIAL.—The Secretary may charge a reasonable fee to an alien who applies for refugee status under this section after having previously been denied refugee status unless such denial occurred before the alien attained 21 years of age.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department.

(3) FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Flores settlement agreement” means the Stipulated Settlement Agreement filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV 85–4544–RJK).

(4) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(5) RESIDENT ADULT.—The term “resident adult” means any individual who is at least 18 years of age and regularly lives, shares common areas, and sleeps in a sponsor or prospective sponsor’s home.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL; SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES.—The terms “specialized instructional support personnel” and “specialized instructional support services” have the

meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(8) ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.—The term “zero tolerance policy” means the policy described in the memorandum of the Attorney General entitled “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”, issued on April 6, 2018.

SEC. 402. FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

(a) DIRECTIVES TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) FAMILY REUNIFICATION.—Consistent with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) and other applicable Federal law, the Secretary shall reallocate resources to facilitate the immediate family reunification of each child separated from his or her parent or guardian at or near a port of entry or within 100 miles of the border or otherwise removed from her or her parent or legal guardian by the Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, or any agent or agency thereof, if such reunification is in the best interest of the child.

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, and any other head of a Federal agency involved in the proceedings against a parent or guardian separated from the parent or guardian’s child (as described in paragraph (1)) shall immediately change policies, procedures, and practices—

(A) to reunify the child separated from his or her parent or guardian; and

(B) to comply with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232), the Flores settlement agreement, and other applicable Federal law.

(b) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Consistent with the laws of the State in which the child is located, only an order from a court of competent jurisdiction may terminate the rights of a parent or guardian over an unaccompanied alien child, including any such child separated from the parent or guardian at such a border.

SEC. 403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government’s Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

SEC. 411. HEALTH CARE IN SHELTERS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) ACCESS TO SERVICES.—The Secretary shall direct the Director, in carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a))—

(1) to ensure that unaccompanied alien children who have not been placed with a sponsor have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate medical, behavioral, and mental health care services, including evidence-based and trauma-informed treatments, provided by qualified health care professionals with the appropriate certifications, licensure, training, and expertise in treating children, including infants, toddlers, and other children who are younger than 13 years of age; and

(2) to issue guidance to grantees, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the procedures for prescribing, reporting, and administration of psychotropic medication.

(b) NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS INITIATIVE.—

(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Out of amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry

out this section, the Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to public and nonprofit private entities and Indian tribes and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), for the purpose of developing and maintaining programs that respond to the needs of unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

(2) BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN.—The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative coordinating center described in section 582(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh–1(a)(1)) shall develop, and make publically available, best practices for providing evidence-based and trauma-informed health care treatment to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (including such children who are traumatized by separation from parents or guardians by the Federal Government to facilitate enforcement of the zero tolerance policy and other infants, toddlers, and children who are younger than 13 years of age)—

(A) to carry out programs under paragraph (1);

(B) to provide services under section 412(a); and

(C) to conduct assessments under section 412(a)(1)(A).

(c) OVERSIGHT ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of the medical, behavioral, and mental health services provided to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and submit a report and recommendations to the Department, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall address—

(A) the extent to which entities with which the Office of Refugee Resettlement contracts meet established standards for ensuring the safety and well-being of alien children in their care;

(B) the quality and appropriateness of the health care services provided to such children, including the administration of medications and treatment;

(C) the extent to which medical, behavioral, and mental health services address the needs of traumatized children and mitigate the long-term health consequences of trauma exposure;

(D) the adequacy of practices to assess the qualifications, including training and licensure, of the professionals administering care, including the expertise of such professionals in providing trauma-informed care;

(E) the adequacy of appropriately-trained health care staff at the Office of Refugee Resettlement tasked with assessing the adequacy of care provided to children in their care; and

(F) oversight, investigations, and actions taken to address allegations against contracted entities of mistreatment, abuse, or neglect of children under any program under Federal or State law.

SEC. 412. SERVICES TO UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PLACEMENT.

(a) TRAUMA-INFORMED, RISK-BASED, POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out

this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of all immigration proceedings or until no longer necessary, whichever is later.

(2) MINIMUM SERVICES.—The services referred to in paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least 1 post-placement case management services visit not later than 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of the child to service providers in the community;

(B) for the family of the child’s sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment; and

(C) for each unaccompanied alien child traumatized by separation of such child from the child’s parent or guardian by the Federal Government, comprehensive, trauma-informed services to assist such child.

(b) EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria;

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(E) to refer to a child advocate each unaccompanied alien child described in subsection (a)(2)(C); and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child—

(A) is provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) is notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

SEC. 413. BACKGROUND CHECKS TO ENSURE THE SAFE PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) CRIMINAL AND CIVIL RECORD CHECKS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a)), from amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Director shall perform, consistent with best practices in the field of child welfare, and a prospective sponsor and all resident adults in the home of the prospective sponsor shall submit to the following record checks (which shall be completed as expeditiously as possible):

(A) Fingerprint-based checks (except as described in paragraph (2)) in national crime information databases, as defined in section 534(e)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) A search of the State criminal registry or repository for any State (except as described in paragraph (3)) in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(C) A search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16919).

(D) A search (except as described in paragraphs (2) and (3)) of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases for any State in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(2) **PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), if the prospective sponsor is the parent or guardian of the child involved, the Director shall have discretion to determine whether the Director shall perform, and the prospective sponsor and resident adults described in paragraph (1) shall submit to, a check described in subparagraph (A) or (D) of paragraph (1).

(3) **WAIVERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary determines that it is not feasible to conduct the check described in subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) for a State, including infeasibility due to a State's refusal or nonresponse in response to a request for related information, or that the average time to receive results from a State for such a check is more than 10 business days, the Secretary may waive the requirements of that subparagraph with respect to the State involved for a period of not more than 1 year. The Secretary may renew the waiver in accordance with this subparagraph.

(B) **PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.**—The Secretary may not delegate the responsibility under subparagraph (A) to another officer or employee of the Department.

(C) **STATES WHERE WAIVERS APPLY.**—The Secretary shall make available, on a website of the Department, the list of States for which the requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) are waived under this paragraph.

(4) **USE OF RECORD CHECKS.**—The information revealed by a record check performed pursuant to this section shall be used only by the Director for the purpose of determining whether a potential sponsor is a suitable sponsor for a placement for an unaccompanied alien child.

(b) **PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS GENERALLY.**—

(1) **DENIALS REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CRIMES.**—The Director shall deny any placement for a prospective sponsor (other than the parent or guardian of the child involved), and may deny any placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved subject to subsection (c), if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of the prospective sponsor was convicted at age 18 or older of a crime that is a felony consisting of any of the following:

(A) Domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment, if the prospective sponsor or resident adult served at least 1 year imprisonment for a crime specified in this subparagraph, or if the prospective sponsor or resident adult was convicted of 2 or more crimes specified in this subparagraph, not arising out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct.

(B) A crime against a child involving pornography.

(C) Human trafficking.

(D) Rape or sexual assault.

(E) Homicide.

(2) **DENIALS CONSIDERED FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.**—The Director may deny a place-

ment for a prospective sponsor if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime not covered by paragraph (1). The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the following factors:

(A) The type of offense.

(B) The number of offenses the sponsor or resident adult has been adjudged guilty or convicted of.

(C) The length of time that has elapsed since the adjudication or conviction.

(D) The nature of the offense.

(E) The age of the individual at the time of the adjudication or conviction.

(F) The relationship between the offense and the capacity to care for a child.

(G) Evidence of rehabilitation of the individual.

(H) Opinions of community and family members concerning the individual.

(c) **PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.**—The Director may deny a placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime. The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the factors described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) **APPEALS PROCESS.**—

(1) **INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall provide information to each prospective sponsor on how such sponsor may appeal—

(A) a placement determination under this section, including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process; and

(B) the results of a record check performed pursuant to this section or the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check, as provided in paragraph (2), including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process.

(2) **APPEAL.**—Each Federal agency responsible for administering or maintaining the information in a database, registry, or repository used in a record check performed pursuant to this section or responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check shall—

(A) establish a process for an appeal concerning the results of that record check, or that accuracy or completeness; and

(B) complete such process not later than 30 days after the date on which such an appeal is filed.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit the Director from establishing additional checks or procedures (besides the checks required in this section) for sponsors, to enable the Director—

(1) to oversee and promote the health, safety, and well-being of unaccompanied alien children; or

(2) to prevent the exploitation, neglect, or abuse of unaccompanied alien children.

SEC. 414. RESPONSIBILITY OF SPONSOR FOR IMMIGRATION COURT COMPLIANCE AND CHILD WELL-BEING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish

procedures to ensure that legal orientation programs regarding immigration court and rights and responsibilities for the well-being of unaccompanied alien children are provided to all prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children prior to an unaccompanied alien child's placement with such a sponsor.

(b) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that each legal orientation program described in such subsection shall provide information on the sponsor's rights and responsibilities to—

(1) ensure the unaccompanied alien child appears at immigration proceedings and communicate with the court involved regarding the child's change of address and other relevant information;

(2) immediately enroll the child in school, and shall provide information and resources if the sponsor encounters difficulty enrolling such child in school;

(3) provide access to health care, including mental health care as needed, and any necessary age-appropriate health screening to the child;

(4) report potential child traffickers and other persons seeking to victimize or exploit unaccompanied alien children, or otherwise engage such children in criminal, harmful, or dangerous activity;

(5) seek assistance from the Department regarding the health, safety, and well-being of the child placed with the sponsor; and

(6) file a complaint, if necessary, with the Secretary or the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding treatment of unaccompanied alien children while under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement or the Department of Homeland Security, respectively.

SEC. 415. MONITORING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) **RISK-BASED POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of removal proceedings or until no longer necessary.

(2) **MINIMUM SERVICES.**—For the purposes of paragraph (1), the services shall, at a minimum, include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least one post-placement case management services visit within 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of unaccompanied alien children to service providers in the community; and

(B) for the family of the child's sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment.

(b) **EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria; and

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien

children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child shall—

(A) be provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) be notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety

SEC. 421. FUNDING TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL CHECKS AND CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY OR REPOSITORY SEARCHES AND TO CONDUCT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, make payments to States, through each agency in each State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository required under section 413(a)(1)(B) or the State child abuse and neglect registry required under section 413(a)(1)(D), to assist with searches of such registries, repositories, or databases for prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children and resident adults in the home of such prospective sponsors, in accordance with section 413.

(2) ALLOTMENTS.—

(A) STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY AND REPOSITORY SEARCHES.—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with criminal registry or repository searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository described in section 413(a)(1)(B), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such State criminal registry or repository conducted in accordance with section 413(a)(1)(B) in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(B) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with child abuse and neglect registry and database searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State child abuse and neglect registries and databases described in section 413(a)(1)(D), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such child abuse and neglect registries and databases conducted in accordance with such section in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(C) TRANSITION RULE.—In the first fiscal year in which funds are made available under this title to carry out this section, the Secretary shall make allotments to each State participating in the programs under this sec-

tion in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), based on the Secretary’s estimate of the number of the searches described in each such subparagraph, respectively, that each of the States are expected to conduct in such fiscal year.

(3) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Each State agency described in paragraph (1) desiring an allotment under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include an assurance that the State agency will respond promptly to all requests from the Director, within a reasonable time period determined by the Director, to conduct a search required under section 413 in a timely manner, and a description of how funds will be used to meet such assurance.

SEC. 422. UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.

(a) IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT.—To be eligible for funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), a local educational agency shall—

(1) ensure that unaccompanied alien children in the area served by the local educational agency are immediately enrolled in school following placement with a sponsor, and any available academic or other records are transferred to such school; and

(2) remove barriers to enrollment and full participation in educational programs and services offered by the local educational agency for unaccompanied alien children (including barriers related to documentation, age, language, and lack of a parent or guardian), which shall include reviewing and revising policies that may have a negative effect on such children.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local educational agencies, or consortia of neighboring local educational agencies, described in subsection (c) to enable the local educational agencies or consortia to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth, including unaccompanied alien children, in the area served by the local educational agencies or consortia.

(c) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, is eligible for a grant under subsection (b) if, during the fiscal year for which a grant is awarded under this section, there are 25 or more unaccompanied alien children enrolled in the public schools served by the local educational agency or the consortium, respectively.

(2) DETERMINATIONS OF NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The Secretary of Education shall determine the number of unaccompanied alien children for purposes of paragraph (1) based on the most accurate data available that is provided to the Secretary of Education by the Director or the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Education, which shall include a description of how the grant will be used to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth (including unaccompanied alien children) and their families, provide trauma-informed services and supports (including mental health care services for such children and youth), improve engagement with the sponsors of such children or youth, and provide specialized instructional support services

(which may include hiring specialized instructional support personnel with expertise in providing services to such children and youth).

TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMAN MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum

SEC. 511. COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE AND LEGAL ORIENTATION.

(a) ACCESS TO LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMS TO ENSURE COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish procedures, consistent with the procedures established pursuant to section 414, to ensure that legal orientation programs are available for all aliens detained by the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Programs under paragraph (1) shall inform aliens described in such paragraph regarding—

(A) the basic procedures of immigration hearings;

(B) their rights and obligations relating to such hearings under Federal immigration laws to ensure appearance at all immigration proceedings;

(C) their rights under Federal immigration laws, including available legal protections and the procedure for requesting such protection;

(D) the consequences of filing frivolous legal claims and of failing to appear for proceedings; and

(E) any other subject that the Attorney General considers appropriate, such as a contact list of potential legal resources and providers.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—An alien shall be given access to legal orientation programs under this subsection regardless of the alien’s current immigration status, prior immigration history, or potential for immigration relief.

(b) PILOT PROJECT FOR NONDETAINED ALIENS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall develop and administer a 2-year pilot program at not fewer than 2 immigration courts to provide nondetained aliens with pending asylum claims access to legal information.

(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the pilot program under this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that describes the extent to which nondetained aliens are provided with access to counsel.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 512. FAIR DAY IN COURT FOR KIDS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS; RIGHT TO REVIEW CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 240(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “, at no expense to the Government,”; and

(ii) by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the Attorney General may appoint or provide counsel, at Government expense, to aliens in immigration proceedings;

“(C) the alien, or the alien’s counsel, not later than 7 days after receiving a notice to appear under section 239(a), shall receive a complete copy of the alien’s immigration file (commonly known as an ‘A-file’) in the possession of the Department of Homeland Security (other than documents protected from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code);” and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking “, and” and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ALIEN REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.—A removal proceeding may not proceed until the alien, or the alien’s counsel, if the alien is represented—

“(A) has received the documents required under paragraph (4)(C); and

“(B) has been provided at least 10 days to review and assess such documents.”.

(b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO APPOINT COUNSEL TO ALIENS IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 292. RIGHT TO COUNSEL.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), in any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, the subject of the proceeding shall have the privilege of being represented by such counsel as may be authorized to practice in such proceeding as he or she may choose. This subsection shall not apply to screening proceedings described in section 235(b)(1)(A).

“(b) ACCESS TO COUNSEL FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act on 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) shall be represented by Government-appointed counsel, at Government expense.

“(2) LENGTH OF REPRESENTATION.—Once a child is designated as an unaccompanied alien child under paragraph (1), the child shall be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings from the child’s initial appearance through the termination of immigration proceedings, and any ancillary matters appropriate to such proceedings even if the child attains 18 years of age or is reunified with a parent or legal guardian while the proceedings are pending.

“(3) NOTICE.—Not later than 72 hours after an unaccompanied alien child is taken into Federal custody, the alien shall be notified that he or she will be provided with legal counsel in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) WITHIN DETENTION FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that unaccompanied alien children have access to counsel inside all detention, holding, and border facilities.

“(c) PRO BONO REPRESENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General should make every effort to utilize the services of competent counsel who agree to provide representation to such children under subsection (b) without charge.

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS.—The Attorney General shall develop the necessary mechanisms to identify counsel available to provide pro bono legal assistance and representation to children under subsection (b) and to recruit such counsel.

“(d) CONTRACTS; GRANTS.—The Attorney General may enter into contracts with, or award grants to, nonprofit agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration-related legal services to children to carry out the responsibilities under this section, including providing legal orientation, screening cases for referral, recruiting, training, and overseeing pro bono attorneys. Nonprofit agencies may enter into subcontracts with, or award grants to, private voluntary agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration related legal services to children in order to carry out this section.

“(e) MODEL GUIDELINES ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.—The Executive Office for Immigration Review, in consultation with voluntary agencies and national experts, shall develop model guidelines for the legal representation of alien children in immigration proceedings, which shall be based on the children’s asylum guidelines, the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and other relevant domestic or international sources.

“(2) PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall be designed to help protect each child from any individual suspected of involvement in any criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity associated with the smuggling or trafficking of children, while ensuring the fairness of the removal proceeding in which the child is involved.

“(f) DUTIES OF COUNSEL.—Counsel provided under this section shall—

“(1) represent the unaccompanied alien child in all proceedings and matters relating to the immigration status of the child or other actions involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(2) appear in person for all individual merits hearings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review and interviews involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(3) owe the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and competent representation to the child as is due to an adult client; and

“(4) carry out other such duties as may be proscribed by the Attorney General or the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

“(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede—

“(1) any duties, responsibilities, disciplinary, or ethical responsibilities an attorney may have to his or her client under State law;

“(2) the admission requirements under State law; or

“(3) any other State law pertaining to the admission to the practice of law in a particular jurisdiction.”.

(2) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to implement section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by paragraph (1), in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 3006A of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 513. ACCESS TO COUNSEL AND LEGAL ORIENTATION AT DETENTION FACILITIES.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide access to counsel for all aliens detained in a facility under the supervision of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Health and Human Services, or in any private facility that contracts with the Federal Government to house, detain, or hold aliens.

SEC. 514. REPORT ON ACCESS TO COUNSEL.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary of Homeland Security,

in consultation with the Attorney General, shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives regarding the extent to which aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), have been provided access to counsel.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (a) shall include, for the immediately preceding 1-year period—

(1) the number and percentage of aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), who were represented by counsel, including information specifying—

(A) the stage of the legal process at which each such alien was represented;

(B) whether the alien was in government custody; and

(C) the nationality and ages of such aliens; and

(2) the number and percentage of aliens who received legal orientation presentations, including the nationality and ages of such aliens.

SEC. 515. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out sections 512 through 514.

(b) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court

SEC. 521. ELIMINATE IMMIGRATION COURT BACKLOGS.

(a) ANNUAL INCREASES IN IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—The Attorney General shall increase the total number of immigration judges to adjudicate pending cases and efficiently process future cases by at least 75 judges during each of the fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

(b) QUALIFICATION; SELECTION.—The Attorney General shall—

(1) ensure that all newly hired immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members are highly qualified and trained to conduct fair, impartial adjudications in accordance with applicable due process requirements; and

(2) in selecting immigration judges, may not give any preference to candidates with prior government experience compared to equivalent subject-matter expertise resulting from nonprofit, private bar, or academic experience.

(c) NECESSARY SUPPORT STAFF FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—To address the shortage of support staff for immigration judges, the Attorney General shall ensure that each immigration judge has sufficient support staff, adequate technological and security resources, and appropriate courtroom facilities.

(d) ANNUAL INCREASES IN BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS PERSONNEL.—The Attorney General shall increase the number of Board of Immigration Appeals staff attorneys (including necessary additional support staff) to efficiently process cases by at least—

(1) 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2019;

(2) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2020; and

(3) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2021.

(e) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of the hurdles to efficient hiring of immigration court judges within the Department of Justice; and

(2) propose solutions to Congress for improving the efficiency of the hiring process.

SEC. 522. IMPROVED TRAINING FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To ensure efficient and fair proceedings, the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall facilitate robust training programs for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

(b) MANDATORY TRAINING.—Training facilitated under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) expanding the training program for new immigration judges and Board members;

(2) continuing education regarding current developments in immigration law through regularly available training resources and an annual conference; and

(3) methods to ensure that immigration judges are trained on properly crafting and dictating decisions and standards of review, including improved on-bench reference materials and decision templates.

SEC. 523. NEW TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COURT EFFICIENCY.

The Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review will modernize its case management and related electronic systems, including allowing for electronic filing, to improve efficiency in the processing of immigration proceedings.

Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States

SEC. 531. ESTABLISHING REINTEGRATION AND MONITORING SERVICES FOR REPATRIATING CHILDREN.

(a) CONSULTATION WITH UNHCR.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of State shall consult with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as the “UNHCR”), Central American governments, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child welfare and unaccompanied migrant children to develop a child-centered repatriation process for unaccompanied children being returned to their country of origin that requires a determination of the best interest of the child before the child is repatriated to his or her country of origin.

(b) COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall collaborate with regional governments and international and domestic nongovernmental organizations to reduce children’s need to emigrate again by—

(1) establishing and expanding comprehensive long-term reintegration services at the municipal level for repatriated unaccompanied children once returned to their communities of origin;

(2) establishing monitoring and verification services to determine the well-being of repatriated children in order to determine if United States protection and screening functioned effectively in identifying persecuted and trafficked children;

(3) providing emergency referrals to the UNHCR for registration and safe passage to an established emergency transit center for refugees for any repatriated children who are facing immediate risk of harm; and

(4) ensuring that international and domestic civil society organizations with expertise in child welfare, unaccompanied migrant

children, and international protection needs have access to government run reception centers for repatriated children—

(A) to identify children with protection needs; and

(B) to offer child services following their return to their communities.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I rise because I am deeply concerned about what is happening across the country to our farmers as a result of the President’s trade war with China.

Let me first say, I agree with the President 100 percent that we need fair trade deals and that we have to make sure American workers and consumers are not being taken for a ride by other countries, especially rogue countries and bad actors like China. Yet, since this trade war began last year, these tariffs are having the complete opposite effect on the people they are supposed to help. That is because tariffs are taxes, plain and simple. Tariffs are taxes, and they are being raised every day by the administration.

The President insists that tariffs force China to pay money to the U.S. Treasury, which is just not true. It is just not factually accurate at all. It is also misleading to the American people. When a tariff is placed on a Chinese good, it is the American company that is importing that product, in addition to the American consumer who ultimately buys it, that pays that additional price. It is just like adding a sales tax to any consumer good or to any commodity on which a tariff has been levied. From businesses to farmers, to consumers, these taxes are being paid for by Americans. That is not politics; that is economics.

The President thinks these tariffs will somehow punish China for its bad behavior, but it is our people who are suffering right now. Last week, we saw a report that showed that the cost of these tariffs had fallen entirely on U.S. businesses and on U.S. households. Just yesterday, China announced it is planning on retaliating, once again, with increased tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American-made goods, which sent the stock market into a tailspin.

Unemployment is incredibly low today, and the economy is doing well today, but across the country, there are so many people who don’t always feel the effects of that booming economy. Yes, they have jobs, but they also have families, healthcare costs, and other costs, so they don’t always feel the economy is doing as well for them as it is for others whom they see on the news, on TV, and in Washington, DC. Working folks aren’t going to feel the true benefits from this economic growth and from the tax cuts of 2017 if

they are paying higher taxes on the products they are buying every single day.

Just yesterday, the President was talking about the tariffs and feeling a little bit of pain but about how great a deal this is going to be and how our government will be happy. The President said: “[O]ur government is happy because we’re taking in tens of billions of dollars.” Yet that money is being brought into the Treasury on the backs of working people—hard-working American taxpayers. It is not the Chinese companies; it is not the Chinese people; it is not the Mexican people; and it is not the Canadian people. It is the American public that is paying that money into the U.S. Treasury.

Tariffs are taxes, and we are all going to pay because of this trade war. Call them whatever you want, but that is the effect they are going to have on the wallets of American taxpayers. Even the President’s own economic advisers admitted this week that it will be the Americans who will suffer as a result of this trade war, with the increased taxes being placed on them every day through the consumer goods they are purchasing.

In Alabama, our farmers, in particular, are hurting, and that is an understatement. Tariffs are affecting a cross-section of our manufacturing workforce. It has our automobile dealers concerned because of the threat of foreign automobile tariffs. Yet, even in the best of times, it is the farmers who are at the most risk. Farming is a risky business, and their margins are very tight. Many farmers in Alabama have already suffered devastating losses from natural disasters, like Hurricane Michael. Quite frankly, they are suffering another congressional disaster right now—in the words of my colleague and friend Senator ISAKSON from Georgia—because we can’t put politics aside quickly enough to get disaster aid to farmers in the South, to folks who have suffered from flooding, or to folks who have suffered from wildfires. We can’t do this because of politics, so now they are suffering. The farmers whom I visited back in South Alabama after Hurricane Michael are suffering now from the congressional disaster.

The last thing in the world they need is another administration disaster that is being manufactured because of the Chinese tariffs on their crops. In particular, soybeans are being hit. Soybean farming supports more than 11,000 jobs in Alabama, but soybean prices are at the lowest they have been in a decade. You can see from this chart how they started up. It was over \$10 just in April of 2018—over \$10. Now it is just above \$8, and it is continuing to slide. The longer this goes on, the more it hurts.

Cotton farmers have been hit. Cotton has had an almost 25-percent reduction in the market price since these tariffs took effect. We have record low unemployment in the country right now; yet

we have a growing number of bankruptcies in farm country. I was looking at reports just today that showed the rise in the number of bankruptcies, the point being that these are hitting people now.

We all want a great deal. We all want to make sure the President gets a good deal for the American public, for the American consumer, but this is hurting people right now, and they will not be able to recover if this does not end soon. Unless the President can reach a deal soon, we can expect prices to continue to deteriorate and for the economic conditions in farm country to get even worse, which will put in jeopardy generations of farmers who may get run out of business.

This is a dire situation. I am not trying to just light fire somewhere. This is really serious for these folks. You only have to watch the news every day. These are people who have supported the President of the United States and who voted for the President of the United States. They want a good deal, and they want a fair deal, but this has been going on for a long time, and there does not seem to be any end in sight. Many of my State's farmers—probably most of my State's farmers—support the President, as do others around the country. They have had his back over the last 2 or 3 years, even during the campaign. Yet, in return, these trade policies have taken money out of their pockets.

When this first started over a year ago, they believed they would get a good deal soon. They believed they could get crops in the field, that they could get their loans paid, and that they could recover from the disasters that had hit them, but it has just dragged on and on. Every time we see a new round of tweets or a new press conference, we talk about what a great deal this is going to be. Yet, when you look behind the curtain, everything is different, and the trade war goes on and on and on.

I fear he is not listening to these farmers or to the Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle—like our Finance chairman—who are telling him that these policies are hurting farmers, that they are devastating farmers. I am not sure how much longer they can hang on in this trade war. Many will. Many can hang on. Yet others cannot. Whether the next generation of farmers will take up the mantle of farming remains to be seen.

This is one reason I am introducing a bill today to update the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which was originally created by my colleague Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Republican from Iowa, to provide help for farmers and producers who have been hurt by these retaliatory tariffs. TAA was originally created to help provide assistance to workers who were impacted by trade, but it was updated in 2002 to include assistance to growers, producers, and fishermen. This bill that I introduce today, as well as a com-

panion bill that has been introduced in the House, would, once again, update the program to help folks who are hurting because of trade actions that have been carried out by our government—not by another government but by ours.

Look, the fact is, no matter how many legislative stopgaps my colleagues and I propose or bailouts the President offers, the massive losses from which farmers and producers suffer are not going to end until the President calls off this trade war.

We all want better trade deals, and farmers want access to global markets. China has, without a doubt, been a bad actor on many trade issues—a rogue country on trade issues. We should be working with our allies in Europe and elsewhere to hold China accountable. Instead, the administration has decided to go it alone. We are picking fights with friends over our own trade issues with them rather than working through diplomacy to try to work those deals. We are picking fights with them, and we are going it alone against China when we so desperately need our friends to help us. China is a growing concern around the world, and we need global partners to help us with our trade issues to try to make sure the global economy stays stable.

I will be absolutely thrilled if the President of the United States negotiates a great deal. I hope he negotiates the best deal ever—the one that he says he is going to negotiate. I hope and pray we get that great deal and that we can do a trade deal with China that is fair and better for America than it has ever been in the history of this country. For all of our sakes, I hope it happens. I really do. This is not a partisan issue. This is about where we are as a country. I hope for the best for him, but, right now, these tariffs are having the opposite effect, and it is hurting so many people.

What many of us fear is going to happen in the cynical world we live in today—and we all get caught up in it, including Members of this body—is that when the President finally wakes up and realizes he has done irreparable harm and irreparable damage to so many of his own supporters with these tariffs and when he wakes up and approaches 2020 and understands that his support may be eroding among those who form the core backbone of his support, he will scramble to make a deal regardless of whether it will be a good deal or not but a deal nonetheless and regardless of whether America will come out on top.

When all is said and done, we can claim victory, but it may be a very hollow victory because, in going forward, we may have a little bit better deal or we may have a much better deal, but it will not change what is happening today or what has happened over the last year. Even if a deal is struck, we have already lost.

Farmers will still have to be digging themselves out of this financial hole

for a very long time. Many will have to declare bankruptcy and lose their farms because they couldn't wait out the President's trade gamble and his tough talk.

To mitigate the tariffs' harmful impacts, the administration is providing some aid to help farmers who are struggling as a result of the trade war. They did so last year, and they need it, but those government bailouts—and that is what they are, they are bailouts—are being paid by other American taxpayers in order to alleviate the pain inflicted by the administration's policies.

That is right. Working families across the country are being asked to step up. We do those things. We are charitable people. If somebody is in pain, we want to do that and help, but when the pain is being caused by the very person who is causing us to then step up, that makes no sense.

Folks, these handouts will not come close to making up for the losses these farmers have suffered, and it is sure not a long-term solution for a healthy trade market.

The biggest problem for these farmers is that they don't want handouts. They don't want government subsidies. They don't want handouts to them for the problems they are facing because of these trade policies. They want their markets. They want to go to China. They want to go to places around the world and share their products. They are proud of their products. We should be proud of those products.

We should not be just simply telling farmers: Do not worry because we will pay for you to grow your product. We are not worried about your markets because we will buy your soybeans. We will buy the cotton. We will buy those things if China doesn't do it. That is not what these farmers want. They don't want that charity. They want their markets. They work hard for those markets.

So how much more can our farmers take? How much more? How long can they go on like this? At what point will they be forced to cut their losses and find another way to support their families while we negotiate with China, while we tweet the fact that a good deal is coming?

At what point will Members of this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the math and the suffering of their constituents—at what point will those in this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the suffering of their constituents by supporting these harmful trade policies, at what point do they stand up?

There are so many people I have talked to who do not support these trade policies, but yet they are silent, and they say: Give the President time. He is going to get a good deal.

At what point does it come where they recognize the suffering of the farmers of the United States and my State of Alabama? At what point do they finally stand up and say enough is enough?

Over the years, the Congress of the United States has ceded a lot of authority to the executive branch of government, and now it is coming home to roost. We can't do much of anything except give speeches like this. We can try to introduce bills that probably will never get to the Senate floor. We can go home and listen to the pain, listen to the suffering, listen to people who so badly want to support the President and what he is doing, as all of us do for these new trade deals, but the fact is, we have ceded so much power to the executive branch of government. It is time for Congress to stand up. It is time for people to speak out to help their farmers, to let the administration know that this cannot go on much longer. We have to stand up and stop this pain as quickly as we can.

We can do it. The President can do it. He has smart people surrounding him. They need to explain to him again that these tariffs are being paid by the American people, not another country. Let's get this negotiated, and let's stop the bleeding for the American farmer as soon as we possibly can.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Prevent Foreign Interference with Elections Act of 2019. This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties and additional safeguards to prevent foreign interference in our elections.

To be clear, there are already laws on the books to prosecute those who interfere in U.S. elections. Indeed, Special Counsel Mueller charged Russian intelligence officers who hacked into U.S. computers and stole documents, for the purpose of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections.

Special Counsel Mueller also charged the Russian Internet Research Agency and several of its employees for their role in the social media campaign that was designed to manipulate American voters.

This bill, however, makes election interference a separate criminal offense. It makes clear that those who conspire with foreign actors to interfere in U.S. elections will be punished appropriately for striking at the bedrock of our democracy.

This bill does five main things.

First, it explicitly makes it a crime to conspire with foreign nationals to interfere in U.S. elections.

Interference can be accomplished through breaking a federal criminal law, such as committing fraud, or by hacking into someone's computer, or by violating federal, state, or local election laws.

As I mentioned, this bill simply leaves no doubt that working with a foreign actor to commit these offenses with the goal of interfering in a U.S. election is a crime.

And it requires that those who break this law will be sentenced separately, and in addition to any other laws that were broken.

Second, it makes it so that people convicted of interfering in our elections would be inadmissible into the United States.

There is, however, an important exception. Those who cooperate with law enforcement to help catch those responsible for interference would be eligible for an S visa.

Third, it creates a civil action, allowing the Attorney General to immediately address foreign interference once U.S. law enforcement learns of it.

This is important because foreign interference can then be stopped as soon as it is discovered.

Fourth, it prohibits foreign-financed elections ads, including foreign-financed issue ads and foreign-financed digital ads.

These expansions will help protect the integrity of our electoral process.

Fifth and finally, it prohibits providing "substantial assistance" to foreign nationals trying to interfere in our elections.

It is important that we also hold ourselves accountable by not providing aid to those wishing to do us harm.

To be clear, there was foreign interference in the 2016 Presidential election.

The Intelligence Community unanimously concluded that the Russian government interfered by "blend[ing] covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls.'" After a nearly two-year investigation, Special Counsel Mueller confirmed these core conclusions.

Along the way, his office indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers in connection with Russian hacking operations and three companies, including the Internet Research Agency and 13 of its employees for their role in the social media campaign to influence American voters.

Unless we do something, this interference will happen again. And to stop it, we need to not only make clear that interference will result in criminal punishment, we must also update our election laws so that they can combat these new cyber-attacks. This bill does both.

I am introducing this bill today with strong Democratic support, and I would particularly like to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for his leadership on this issue.

It is my sincere hope, however, that my Republican colleagues will join us in this important effort as well.

The issue I speak about today is one that goes to the core of our democracy.

It is a bi-partisan issue that I hope both Democrats and Republicans can join in addressing.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 205—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE SENATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE OR SUPPORT DIAPER BANKS AND DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 205

Whereas the lack of a sufficient clean diaper supply can adversely affect the physical, mental, and economic well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas diapers are a material basic need of every infant and toddler;

Whereas an infant requires up to 12 diapers per day, at a cost of \$70 to \$80 per month;

Whereas low-wage families and families living in poverty often rely on community donations for diapers;

Whereas addressing diaper need in local communities can improve health conditions and economic opportunities for infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas many families delay changing a diaper to extend their diaper supply, thereby increasing the incidence of diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections, and other health ailments;

Whereas families displaced by natural disasters experience an acute need for diapers, particularly as diapers are not consistently provided through relief efforts;

Whereas diapers provided by diaper banks and volunteer distribution projects amplify the impact of resources deployed by larger disaster relief organizations;

Whereas, in September 2011, the National Diaper Bank Network was created to support children and their families and to raise awareness of diaper need among the general public;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 diapers were distributed along the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma by nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network;

Whereas the National Diaper Bank Network coordinates ongoing diaper supply efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the California wildfires, and the Midwestern floods; and

Whereas, during 2017, the more than 300 nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network distributed more than 64,000,000 donated diapers, helping ensure that each month more than 225,000 children in need received diapers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities;

(2) supports the important efforts made by diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in response to natural disasters; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to address diaper need by donating generously to diaper banks, diaper pantries, diaper drives, and organizations that distribute diapers to families in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON CONTEMPORARY BATTLEFIELDS, AND ENCOURAGING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING GREATER RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CURRENT CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ITS SECURITY PARTNERS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 206

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, along with their Additional Protocols, are the foundation of international humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the law of armed conflict, the body of law that seeks to ensure wars have limits;

Whereas 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and serves as a reminder of the importance and continued relevance of IHL in a world with proliferating and protracted armed conflicts, unprecedented displacement, and immense suffering;

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 reflect more than just law; they reflect the universal recognition that wars must be fought humanely;

Whereas, at its core, IHL sets out a fundamental obligation that people, even in times of armed conflict, must be treated with humanity;

Whereas IHL requires all parties to armed conflicts, whether states or non-state armed groups, to comply with rules and basic principles that seek to preserve the lives and dignity of human beings, such as that: civilians and civilian objects must not be targeted; hospitals and medical personnel must be respected and must not be attacked; no one shall be subjected to torture or other forms of ill treatment; and rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited;

Whereas today's conflicts are marred by significant violations of IHL, the effects of which are apparent across armed conflicts, from restrictions on humanitarian access contributing to the world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen, to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, in addition to attacks against civilians, and attacks on medical personnel and health facilities; to the Islamic State's use of civilians as human shields; to widespread killings, sexual violence, and forced displacement in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and elsewhere;

Whereas people detained in armed conflict, including prisoners of war (POWs), often suffer torture, abuse, and inhumane living conditions, such as insufficient food, water, and health services;

Whereas, while many states have taken significant steps to ensure humane treat-

ment of detainees, and adequate living conditions, many others still fail to comply with basic standards of treatment and care as required by IHL;

Whereas, as mandated by the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays a vital role in visiting detainees in situations of armed conflict with a view to preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, preventing disappearances, improving overall detention conditions, maintaining family contacts, and promoting judicial guarantees;

Whereas the United States has an expressed preference for pursuing its military objectives "by, with, and through" its security partners in some parts of the world, but state militaries and non-state armed groups with which the United States partners may lack sufficient commitment to IHL principles or capabilities to conduct their operations in a manner that effectively minimizes civilian harm;

Whereas it is essential, as a critical component of its policies and diplomatic relations, that the United States affirms its commitment to not only respect the rules of IHL but to ensure respect by its partners and adopt policies conditioning its security assistance in this regard;

Whereas, as the nature of warfare changes, IHL remains relevant to ensure wars are fought with limits;

Whereas IHL was created to respond to new developments and domains in warfare, such as cyber operations, and new challenges do not undermine the importance or relevance of IHL, but rather call for affirming, applying, and ensuring compliance with IHL;

Whereas sweeping counterterrorism measures and country-based sanctions have sometimes impeded neutral, impartial lifesaving humanitarian action in countries like Somalia and Syria;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of implementing and upholding IHL, not just as a matter of legal obligation but also because respect for human life and protecting the vulnerable reflects the best traditions of a professional military force;

Whereas United States senior military leadership often publicly recognizes that minimizing civilian harm is central to mission effectiveness and therefore serves the United States national security interests; and

Whereas, as long as armed conflict remains a reality, there must also be a limit to suffering, and IHL, as outlined 70 years ago in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, sets out these limits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) upon the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) remains critical to upholding humanity in war, protecting people affected by war, and preventing suffering;

(2) the Executive branch and Congress must ensure that the United States Government, as the largest donor of lifesaving humanitarian aid—

(A) does not employ counterterrorism measures or other sanctions that unduly impede lifesaving humanitarian action and thereby jeopardize vulnerable people's access to resources critical to their survival; and

(B) upholds the longstanding United States commitment to supporting principled humanitarian action; and

(3) the United States must continue to be a global leader in promoting and ensuring compliance with IHL by upholding high standards of conduct within the United States Armed Forces, taking stronger measures to ensure compliance with IHL by United States security partners, holding per-

petrators of violations of IHL accountable, and seeking compliance with IHL by all parties to armed conflict.

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CONGRATULATING THE SENATE GLASS CAUCUS STAFF ASSOCIATION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SENATE STAFF ON THE 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on April 23, 2004, several Senate staffers joined to form a first-of-its-kind staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this preamble as "LGBT") Senate staff and the allies of LGBT Senate staff;

Whereas that staff association, known as the Gay, Lesbian, Allies Senate Staff Caucus, and commonly referred to as the "Senate GLASS Caucus", continues to serve the Senate community by raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community;

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus continues to promote the welfare and dignity of LGBT Senate employees;

Whereas, for the first time in the 15-year history of the Senate Glass Caucus, the Senate GLASS Caucus celebrates the fact that 2 openly LGBT Members are serving simultaneously in the Senate; and

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus strives to provide a safe environment for social interaction and professional development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the association;

(2) commends the late Senator Frank Ra-

leigh Lautenberg of New Jersey for—

(A) the critical role that Senator Lautenberg played in the formation of the Senate GLASS Caucus; and

(B) the steadfast support of Senator Lautenberg for equality; and

(3) recognizes the members of the inaugural Senate GLASS Caucus Steering Committee for the vision and hard work of those members in establishing the Senate GLASS Caucus, including—

(A) Lynden Armstrong;

(B) Brett Bearce;

(C) Josh Brekenfeld;

(D) John Fossum;

(E) Jason Knapp;

(F) Jeffrey Levensaler;

(G) Kelsey Phipps; and

(H) Mat Young.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH"

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 208

Whereas cut flower growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost \$27,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the "Certified American Grown Flowers" logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas, as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now "Certified American Grown";

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the five flower varieties produced in the largest quantities in the United States are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas, and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only one in five flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an increase of approximately 20 percent in the number of domestic cut flower farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July as "American Grown Flower Month";

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for the flower farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States as well as agriculture in the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2019, AS "NATIONAL POLICE WEEK"

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 209

Whereas Federal, State, local, and Tribal police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with valor, dignity, and integrity;

Whereas law enforcement officers are charged with—

(1) pursuing justice for all individuals; and
(2) performing the duties of a law enforcement officer with fidelity to the constitutional and civil rights of the public the officers serve;

Whereas law enforcement officers swear an oath to uphold the public trust even though, through the performance of the duties of a law enforcement officer, the officers may become targets for senseless acts of violence;

Whereas, in 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 (36 U.S.C. 136) (referred to in this preamble as the "Joint Resolution"), which authorizes the President to proclaim May 15 of every year as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of the Federal, State, and local officers who have been killed, disabled, or otherwise injured in the line of duty;

Whereas the Joint Resolution also authorizes the President to designate the week in which Peace Officers Memorial Day falls as National Police Week;

Whereas the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dedicated on October 15, 1991, is the national monument to honor those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service honors the 159 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2018, including—

- (1) William H. Allee;
- (2) Michael J. Anson;
- (3) Christopher T. Bacon;
- (4) Daniel S. Baker;
- (5) Thomas J. Barnitt;
- (6) Mark J. Baserman;
- (7) Paul R. Bauer;
- (8) Steven Belanger;
- (9) Benton H. Bertram;
- (10) Justin T. Billa;
- (11) Edward R. Bollman;
- (12) John J. Brant;
- (13) William H. Briggs;
- (14) Jermaine T. Brown;
- (15) Samuel N. Bullard;
- (16) Lonnie V. Burton;
- (17) Amy S. Caprio;
- (18) Terrence F. Carraway;
- (19) Gregory Casillas V;
- (20) Michael C. Chesna;
- (21) Anthony L. Christie;
- (22) Nicholas F. Clark;
- (23) Eugene P. Cole;
- (24) Timothy D. Cole, Sr.;
- (25) Jarate D. Condit;
- (26) Kevin K. Conner;
- (27) Jesus M. Cordova;
- (28) Thomas M. Coulter;
- (29) Mark A. Cox;
- (30) Brian L. Crews;
- (31) Kevin F. Crossley;
- (32) Brian S. Cuscino;
- (33) Glenn A. Doss;
- (34) Micheal R. Doty;
- (35) Christopher J. Driver;
- (36) Keith O. Earle;
- (37) Tyler J. Edenhofer;
- (38) Hunter A. Edwards;
- (39) Kyle L. Eng;
- (40) Timothy A. Ensley;
- (41) Pedro Esponda, Jr.;
- (42) William P. Farley;
- (43) Micah L. Flick;
- (44) Edgar Flores;
- (45) Jeffrey W. Francis;
- (46) Jared W. Franks;
- (47) Jarrod K. Friddle;
- (48) Mark S. Gado;
- (49) Sean M. Gannon;
- (50) Conrad C. Gary;
- (51) William J. Gentry, Jr.;
- (52) Earl J. Givens III;
- (53) Joseph B. Gomm;
- (54) Walter Greene, Jr.;
- (55) Kirk A. Griess;
- (56) Heath M. Gumm;
- (57) Richard W. Hale;
- (58) Dale S. Hallman;
- (59) Scotty Hamilton;
- (60) Ron L. Helus;
- (61) Christopher D. Hill;
- (62) Tony Hinoestroza III;
- (63) Toshio Hirai;
- (64) Garrett W. Hull;
- (65) Jerry L. Hurd, Jr.;
- (66) Charles G. Irvine, Jr.;

(67) Samuel Jimenez;
 (68) Raymond B. Jimmerson;
 (69) Adam E. Jobbers-Miller;
 (70) Eric J. Joering;
 (71) Bronson K. Kallilo;
 (72) Theresa S. King;
 (73) James L. Kirk, Jr.;
 (74) Gary L. Koch;
 (75) Robert K. Kunze III;
 (76) Christopher M. Lawton;
 (77) Andres Laza-Caraballo;
 (78) Michael L. Ledek;
 (79) David J. LeValley;
 (80) Taylor F. Lindsey;
 (81) Alexis T.E. Locklear;
 (82) Richard Lopez;
 (83) Chase L. Maddox;
 (84) David Manning;
 (85) Tawanna V. Marin;
 (86) Eduardo Marmolejo;
 (87) Larry E. Marrero;
 (88) Mathew J. Mazany;
 (89) Dennis P. McCarthy;
 (90) Daniel A. McCartney;
 (91) Francis A. McClelland, Jr.;
 (92) Phillip L. Meacham;
 (93) Deidre I. Mengedoh;
 (94) Michael J. Michalski;
 (95) Kevin M. Miller;
 (96) W. Zachery M. Moak;
 (97) Anthony P. Morelli;
 (98) Diego Moreno;
 (99) Matthew T. Moreno;
 (100) Emmett P. Morris;
 (101) Melissa S. Morrow;
 (102) Christopher R. Morton;
 (103) Stephen J. Mullen;
 (104) Paul Murphy;
 (105) Robert E. Nagle;
 (106) Mark J. Natale;
 (107) Vu X. Nguyen;
 (108) Kathleen O'Connor-Funigiello;
 (109) Joel A. Pantojas Fuentes;
 (110) Joseph M. Parise;
 (111) Jacob M. Pickett;
 (112) Robert S. Pitts;
 (113) Jason B. Quick;
 (114) P. Scott Ragsdale;
 (115) Noel Ramirez-Beltran, Jr.;
 (116) Mujahid A.M. Ramzziddin;
 (117) Dennis W. Reichardt;
 (118) Nole E. Remagen;
 (119) Oscar A. Reyes;
 (120) Kirt R. Ricks III;
 (121) Christopher Robateau;
 (122) Aaron P. Roberts;
 (123) Patrick T. Rohrer;
 (124) David P. Romrell;
 (125) Alex I. Sable;
 (126) Charles R. Salaway;
 (127) Rogelio Santander, Jr.;
 (128) Jason M. Seals;
 (129) David C. Sherrard;
 (130) Casey L. Shoemate;
 (131) Fadi M. Shukur;
 (132) Basilio A. Simons;
 (133) Leann Simpson;
 (134) Ronil Singh;
 (135) Michael W. Smith;
 (136) Rodney S. Smith;
 (137) Kevin J. Stanton;
 (138) Mark V. Stasyuk;
 (139) Kent D. Swanson;
 (140) Sally A. Thompson;
 (141) David A. Tinsley;
 (142) Antwan D. Toney;
 (143) Farrah B.G. Turner;
 (144) Harry Valentin;
 (145) Loren Y. Vasquez;
 (146) Dennis B. Vincent;
 (147) Benjamin D. Wallace;
 (148) William H. Wanser;
 (149) Darren M. Weathers;
 (150) Lance C. Whitaker;
 (151) Chase S. White;
 (152) James K. White;
 (153) Charles M. Whites, Jr.;
 (154) Ayrian M. Williams;

(155) Malcus Williams II;
 (156) Tamby Yagan;
 (157) Kristopher D. Youngberg;
 (158) Benjamin L. Zirbel; and
 (159) Ryan D. Zirkle; and
 Whereas, since the beginning of 2019, 41 law enforcement officers from across the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as “National Police Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for law enforcement officers across the United States in the efforts that those officers undertake to build safer and more secure communities;

(3) recognizes the need to ensure that law enforcement officers have the equipment, training, and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the officers while the officers are protecting the public;

(4) recognizes the law enforcement community for the continual selfless acts of sacrifice and bravery carried out by the members of that community;

(5) acknowledges that police officers and other law enforcement personnel, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, should be remembered and honored;

(6) expresses condolences to the loved ones of each law enforcement officer who has made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Police Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role that law enforcement officers perform in service to the United States and the communities in which those officers serve.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2019, AS “NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT SCHEMES TARGETING SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT THOSE SCHEMES, AND TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FROM THOSE SCHEMES FOR SENIORS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas, in 2035, there will be an estimated 78,000,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States (referred to in this preamble as “seniors”), compared to an estimated 76,700,000 individuals under the age of 18;

Whereas senior fraud is a growing concern as millions of seniors in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including Internal Revenue Service impersonation scams, identify theft or identity fraud involving Social Security benefits and other identity theft, sweepstakes and lottery scams, grandparent scams, computer tech support scams, romance scams, work-at-home scams, charity scams, home improvement scams, and fraudulent investment schemes;

Whereas other types of fraud perpetrated against seniors include health care fraud, health insurance fraud, counterfeit prescription drug fraud, funeral and cemetery fraud,

“anti-aging” product fraud, telemarketing fraud, and internet fraud;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has estimated that seniors lose a staggering \$2,900,000,000 each year to an ever-growing array of financial exploitation schemes and scams;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 8,200 complaints reporting possible scams from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the ease with which criminals contact seniors through the internet and telephone increases as more creative schemes emerge;

Whereas, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2018, released by the Federal Trade Commission, people age 60 or older were defrauded of approximately \$391,000,000 in 2018, with the median loss to defrauded victims age 80 or older averaging \$1,700 per person, more than double the average amount lost by victims between the ages of 50 and 59;

Whereas senior fraud is underreported by victims due to embarrassment and lack of information about where to report fraud; and

Whereas May 15, 2019, is an appropriate day to establish as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 15, 2019, as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes National Senior Fraud Awareness Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about the barrage of scams that individuals age 65 or older in the United States (referred to in this resolution as “seniors”) face in person, by mail, on the phone, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in preventing scams targeting seniors and educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors and to improve measures to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at time coinciding with votes, to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND SPACE

The Subcommittee on Aviation and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy, and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Yu and Laura Cannon, who are legislative fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 986 AND H.R. 2157

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 986) to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

A bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 209, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) designating the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as "National Police Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2019, AS "NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) supporting the designation of May 15, 2019, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent schemes targeting seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those schemes, and to improve protections from those schemes for seniors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

REAUTHORIZING THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 82, S. 1231.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1231) to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 1231

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

SECTION 1. BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

[(a)] IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(23)) is amended by striking "part Y" and all that follows and inserting "part Y, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter:".

[(b) PROGRAM NAME.—Part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10531 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 2501 the following:

["SEC. 2500. PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

["The program under this part shall be known as the 'Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program'."]

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1231), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1231

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

SECTION 1. BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(23)) is amended by striking "part Y" and all that follows and inserting "part Y, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter:".

(b) *PROGRAM NAME.*—Part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10531 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 2501 the following:

["SEC. 2500. PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

["The program under this part shall be known as the 'Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program'."]

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 15; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Lee nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF WENDY VITTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, later this week, Wendy Vitter will receive a vote on her nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Once our votes are cast, she almost certainly will be confirmed by a slim margin on largely partisan lines, and she will join the Federal judiciary for a lifetime tenure. My hope is that my Republican colleagues will think again and that some of them will demonstrate some conscience and conviction based on principles that I think are more important than any single district court judge and indeed more important than any of us individually, because Ms. Vitter will never again face public accountability for her fitness, her moral character, and her fidelity to the bedrock norms of our time. She will be insulated from all political process.

That is what we afford our judiciary. It is the right thing to do. They ought to be, in effect, guardians of the Constitution with lifetime appointments that protect them from political vindictiveness or revenge. But that independence must be earned. It is earned by vetting through a public confirmation process. The Founders placed that responsibility in this body with us, and for nearly a century, these confirmation hearings have helped the American public judge our would-be judges and weed out our wildly radical or unfit nominees. The confirmation process is a vetting that includes a hearing and then a committee vote and then a vote here in the Senate.

On the most basic principles of the confirmation process, Ms. Vitter fails to pass muster. She failed to produce more than 100 speeches, interviews, and press articles to the Senate Judiciary Committee for review. She defiantly declined to answer my question on one of the baseline notions of constitutional liberty—the correctness of the

Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I ask these questions to every nominee when they appear because I believe it is unquestionably an important reason for considering whether to vote for these nominees—their beliefs as to whether *Brown v. Board of Education* and other well-established precedents are indeed correctly decided.

This iconic ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court is special even among those well-established decisions. Anyone who fails to endorse such a sacrosanct decision is clearly out of the legal and societal mainstream and unworthy of confirmation.

When I asked Ms. Vitter if she thought *Brown v. Board* was correctly decided, here is how she responded:

I don't mean to be coy, but I think I can get into a difficult, difficult area when I start commenting on Supreme Court decisions which are correctly decided and which I may disagree with. Again, my personal, political, or religious views I would set aside. That is Supreme Court precedent.

I was stunned by her answer. I am still stunned to read it back. I am tempted to read it again out of disbelief. *Brown* is woven into the fabric of our Nation. How could anyone suggest disagreeing with *Brown*, as she did, and then say: Well, even though I disagree with *Brown v. Board of Education*, I would follow it. That answer says something very profound about the person giving it.

In 2019, the only reasonable answer to my question—"Do you think *Brown v. Board of Education* was correctly decided?"—is a resounding yes. *Brown* is about more than just its historic ruling; a separate but equal school is inherently unequal and unconstitutional. A segregated school, even if it is called equal, is inherently unequal. That is *Brown*. It is about core values and principles deeply embedded in the constitutional consensus that binds and bonds our constitutional democracy. It is about more than just the words on paper; it is about our values and our principles, what holds us together as a nation.

When nominees like Ms. Vitter refuse to say that a seminal case like *Brown* was correctly decided and instead merely says that it is precedent, that it is a binding decision, what they are asserting essentially is that a case that is decided is only a decision, that it is only good law until it is reversed.

The reason for giving such an answer is that Ms. Vitter and the vast majority of President Trump's nominees do not really think that a lot of Supreme Court precedent is correct, and they would be perfectly happy for reversals.

We know that the President has a litmus test for his judicial nominees. He has told us repeatedly that he will appoint judges who will overturn another landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

What is particularly striking and pernicious about Ms. Vitter's answer to

my question on *Brown* is that her extreme views on *Roe*, abortion, and reproductive rights are already well known and authoritatively established.

In May 2013, at an anti-choice protest outside the future site of a Planned Parenthood clinic, Ms. Vitter said:

Planned Parenthood says they promote women's health. It is the saddest of ironies that they kill over 150,000 females a year. The first step in promoting women's health is to let them live.

This is a radical view. It is wrong on the facts. It makes no secret of what Ms. Vitter thinks about the precedent of *Roe*, and it is worth noting that Ms. Vitter initially didn't even disclose this speech to the Senate.

In November of 2013, Ms. Vitter moderated a panel at the conference for Louisiana Right to Life titled "Abortion Hurts Women's Health." Again, Ms. Vitter did not disclose this to the Senate. On the panel was a so-called "expert" who falsely claimed that contraception pills are linked to cancer, an absurd and very dangerous lie. Ms. Vitter advocated that viewers download this speaker's brochure and ask their doctors to display it saying: "Each one of you can be a pro-life advocate."

At her confirmation hearing, a number of Senators asked Ms. Vitter whether she believed the claims made in the brochure. She refused to answer and insisted she had not studied the details of the brochure. How strange that she asked the audience of her panel discussion to have their doctors display it. At the same Louisiana Right to Life event, Ms. Vitter applauded Texas for the "great strides in making it very difficult to get abortions in Texas."

Ms. Vitter was applauding a law that requires physicians who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, and it required abortion clinics in the State to have facilities comparable to an ambulatory surgical center. The Supreme Court struck down the law as unconstitutional because it would have closed most clinics in Texas and placed an undue burden on Texas women to access safe, legal abortion services.

As a district court judge, Ms. Vitter undoubtedly would have upheld this unconstitutional restriction of a woman's right to choose. She celebrated a Louisiana law that forced women to look at an ultrasound before having an abortion. These kinds of requirements serve no medical purpose, which is why they have been struck down. They are only an obstruction to a woman's right over her own reproductive health, and they conflict with basic Supreme Court principles about the rights of privacy under the Constitution.

Federal judges are entrusted with this kind of lifetime appointment because they will be neutral arbiters. They will give everyone a fair, impartial hearing and rule on the facts and the law. That is the theory. Ms. Vitter, despite her best efforts to hide her

record, despite her continuing suggestion about different views and her refusal to answer questions on bedrock principles, has showed what her true beliefs are in her writings, her statements, and her activities. We know about Wendy Vitter, for sure. She will not be an unbiased umpire. When it comes to abortion and reproductive rights, we know that she is too ideological to simply call balls and strikes. That is why she was nominated, and that is why she was chosen. She passed that litmus test imposed by this administration and this President. She is part of those efforts to remake the Federal judiciary in the image of the far-right, extremist fringe.

I cannot support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to oppose her. I will be voting against her on Thursday of this week when her confirmation vote is scheduled.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, climate change is already wreaking havoc on the American economy, and anyone who cares today about having a strong economy in 10, 20, or 30 years needs to be committed to acting now.

We are already seeing the economic risks related to climate change. Temperatures are rising, sea levels are rising, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.

Ask families in California whose homes and businesses have been burned to the ground in record-setting fires or construction workers in Texas who have to cut their hours because of the heat or farmers in Nebraska, where the State Farm Bureau estimates that this spring's flood will cost ranchers \$500 million and will cost grain farmers \$400 million. Farm bankruptcies were already at a 10-year high even before the flooding.

We are getting closer to long-term tipping points. Within 30 years, which is a typical span of a mortgage, nearly 400,000 existing homes in the U.S. coastal areas are at risk of being uninhabitable. These homes collectively are worth about \$210 billion. That is more than four times the estimated insured losses of Hurricane Katrina.

The "National Climate Assessment" says that \$1 trillion worth of coastal real estate in the United States is threatened by the effects of climate change. The assessment also shows that labor productivity will take a hit. Under one scenario, the Southeast

United States alone could lose \$47 billion in productivity each year.

The "National Climate Assessment" also predicts that maize and soybean yields will each be down as much as 25 percent across the Midwest by midcentury, mostly due to hot temperatures. In other words, we are looking at a real estate bubble, massive changes in productivity, and increased disaster costs for State and Federal governments.

It is no wonder that experts say that climate change is the top economic risk facing our planet today. The World Economic Forum has warned us that we are "sleepwalking into catastrophe." Citigroup estimates that world economies could lose at least \$44 trillion in economic activity between now and the year 2060. Actuaries name climate change the No. 1 risk to insurers in North America.

All of those individuals and institutions and companies and agencies that just described the risks related to climate change—I have no idea how they feel about birds and butterflies. I have no idea if they care about conservation on a personal level. I don't know if they surf or they snowboard or they hike or they bird-watch. I don't know how much they care about the natural environment. I do know they care about money, and they are paid to care about money, and they are very worried about the impact that climate change will have on our economy.

You will notice that this is not a traditional climate speech. I got involved in climate because I care, but I understand that not everybody has the luxury of worrying about the birds and the butterflies and the creatures in the ocean. A lot of people worry every day about whether they are going to be able to put food on the table, and a lot of people worry about the value of their home and value of their 401(k) and whether the government is going to be consumed with these disaster costs.

You should be worried about the new and growing risks of droughts, floods, storms, wildfires, and sea level rise because these events reduce the value of assets. They decrease investment income. They can increase insured and uninsured losses. In other words, they promise to disrupt financial institutions. That means the health of our financial system is at stake.

There are now 36 central banks and financial regulators around the world who are worried about climate's economic impact and how to plan for it, including the UK, Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, and China. They have come together to work on developing the tools to assess climate change risk to the financial system. This is not the ecological system, and these are not communities. This is about money and how much money is at risk when it comes to climate change.

The Bank of England is planning to include climate impacts in its bank's

stress tests as early as next year, and the central bank of the Netherlands is doing more to include climate-related risks in its financial supervision. Yet guess who is not part of this group of 36 countries that is trying to develop the analytic tools to figure out what impacts climate change is going to have on our economic system—the United States.

The three Federal Government Agencies that oversee the financial system are taking a unique approach to this problem by putting their heads in the sand. I know this because I asked them. I was part of a group of 20 Senators who sent a letter to the Federal Reserve, the OCC, and the FDIC, and asked them how they are accounting for climate change risks to our financial system. Their response was basically—listen, extreme weather shocks happen all the time. As for the risks of climate change, since they are so far out and hard to quantify, our regulators book that risk at zero. Now think about the absurdity of this. It is not that they are saying the risk doesn't exist. They are conceding that it exists. They are just saying it is so hard to quantify that they have decided it is nothing.

There are all kinds of risks that all of these supervisory institutions evaluate on a regular basis. That is their job. They have these big manuals that they use—these thick manuals—to supervise banks and financial institutions. They can look at how much excess capital you have, how much exposure you have to a real estate bubble, or how much exposure you may have to a downturn in the economy. They have decided the risk related to climate change is nothing at all.

This is in direct contrast to almost every other industrialized country and its regulatory agency. It doesn't matter what their politics are—whether they are run by rightwing or leftwing governments; everyone else is taking the financial risk related to climate change seriously except the United States. Everyone—the insurance industry, the defense community, the intelligence community, the international community—knows that climate is at increasing risk. They all know that climate change is real and that it is impacting our financial system right now, that it is impacting the finances of publicly held corporations and banks and the government itself. The U.S. financial community needs to join them.

Let me end by saying this: We don't have to agree on the many ways in which we should be acting on climate change. It is OK if you hate my bill, with my good friend Senator WHITEHOUSE, on a carbon fee. It is OK if you think we should do the Green New Deal or not do the Green New Deal. It is OK if you think the Paris Agreement is bad or good. You get to think what you want, but you cannot ignore the risk that climate change is imposing on our financial system. You don't get to think that this cost—that this risk—is

not material. You don't get to think that we should do nothing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me first thank my friend Senator SCHATZ, of Hawaii, for joining me on the floor today to talk about the financial hazards that are associated with ignoring climate change. He has been a really terrific leader on this subject. I have to say that I am sometimes a little bit embarrassed that Rhode Island is the Ocean State when Hawaii has so much ocean out there in the Pacific. I guess that is what you get for getting there first, but I am delighted that Senator SCHATZ is here.

What I want to do in my time here, in my following up on Senator SCHATZ' remarks, is to go through some of the recent warnings that have come out. One I will go back to from last year, and the other ones I will follow up on quickly. They are all between March 25 of this year and now, just in the last couple of months.

The one from last year is a Wall Street Journal article that documented the increasing climate risk and the insurance industry's need to recalculate. It had the legendary investor—the “Wizard of Omaha”—Warren Buffett warning that if reinsurance contracts—and he is a reinsurance guy—covered 30 years, he would be crazy not to include climate risks. Those were his words.

The article goes on to point out that climate change may be gradual but that its effects are volatile. It is like something steady for a long time and then, in the words of the article, a sudden large, unexpected hit. “You can have an increased potential for an outsized loss in a single year,” and they conclude “there's a cost for inaction.” What we are doing here, which is nothing on climate change, has a very significant cost.

The article points out that after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, 13 insurance companies were ordered liquidated because they were not adequately well prepared. The risks are going up precipitously. The probability of a Texas storm dropping about 20 inches of rain was about 1 percent a year until 2000, and it is expected to increase to 18 percent a year—an 18-times increase in the risk of that level of storm and flooding.

Swiss Re says in the article that coastal flooding could leave certain coastal areas “so exposed, insurance becomes no longer viable. It becomes uninsurable.” Indeed, in this article, it points out that if you take climate change into account, flood losses could exceed \$1 trillion per year by 2050. In saying this, it aligns with Moody's, the famous bond evaluator and insurer, which is going to start evaluating municipal bonds for coastal communities based on their preparation for coastal risk. This is not some green organization. When it is starting to evaluate, something is going on.

Freddie Mac has warned of a coastal property values crash that could be as serious as the 2008 mortgage meltdown. Again, Freddie Mac is not a green or environmental group. It is warning about a coming risk. We will not listen to those risks because too many people here are told what to do and what to think by the fossil fuel industry.

Just recently, on March 25, 2019, a Federal Reserve research paper warned that climate risk could cause a financial crisis: Losses from natural disasters magnified by higher temperatures and elevated sea levels could spark a financial crisis. The article identified the three key forces that are transforming the economy in our time, and one of those three is climate change.

This is not some side-bar issue. It quoted the latest National Climate Assessment. “Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century.” The reason, it describes, is due to a fundamental market failure. “Carbon fuel prices do not properly account for climate change costs.” Of course, the fossil fuel industry loves that market failure, but we should not tolerate it if we purport to believe in a market economy.

Senator SCHATZ and I support a carbon fee. They call it a carbon tax, pointing out that it can appropriately incentivize innovations, which we need, and that it should equal the social cost of carbon, which our bill does. It also points out that we are creating a risk for generations to come. We might get off pretty free in terms of the punch that comes back, but our kids and our grandkids are not going to think that we did a very responsible job here.

What are the increasing financial risks the article mentions? They are business interruptions in bankruptcies, unexpected losses in the value of assets or companies, and climate-based credit risk exposure, particularly in my coastal State, which is concerned about loans to affected businesses or mortgages on coastal real estate—again, lining up with what Freddie Mac and others have said about the dangers of a coastal property value crash.

The next article of April 4, BlackRock, which is the world's largest asset manager, warns that investors are underpricing the impact of climate-related risks. The report points out that all major U.S. metropolitan areas were already suffering mild to moderate losses to GDP as a result of climate change—already suffering that—and that the risk of a property being hit by a category 5 hurricane was expected to rise by 275 percent if no climate action were taken.

This is a map from that article of the economic impacts of climate change. All of the reds are in real trouble; the tans are in trouble; yellows are in some trouble; trouble for the light green, and

green is very scarce and is seeing a little bit of GDP improvement. Yet, if you look at the map, that is a country that is hurting economically as a result of climate change.

OK. Four days later, on April 8, EPA scientists published an article that climate change will cost the U.S. hundreds of billions of dollars per year. Unchecked, climate change will cost the United States hundreds of billions of dollars per year. Cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would prevent a lot of the damage and reduce the annual economic toll in some sectors by more than half. Unmitigated warming could reduce the global GDP by as much as 20 percent, said a related report by the British Government.

Now, think about that. You are going to take a 20-percent hit to the global GDP. What does that do? That is an economic downturn of a very dark order. It also points out that the cost of inaction is really high and that the cost of reducing emissions pales in comparison.

We are taking the more dangerous and expensive path because the group that gets hurt has control over this body, the fossil fuel industry. Yet, as other warnings will point out, it can't change the inevitable. All it can do is postpone it, and the inevitable then gets worse. It warns that damage to coastal property, primarily on the gulf and east coast, will reach \$120 billion per year.

If you are from a noncoastal State, you may think that is funny. I am from a coastal State, and I don't think that is funny at all. I think my colleagues should take a warning like that seriously. The benefits that the country stands to reap by cutting greenhouse gas emissions was another theme. There is an upside here. We win economically by cutting greenhouse gas emissions. If we don't, the cost is hundreds of billions of dollars.

Next, on the same day of April 8, 2019, a CNBC article, in summarizing an Urban Land Institute report, warns that for real estate investors in particular, risk is rising exponentially in the age of climate change to the point at which a new cottage industry of companies has emerged that assess climate risk to real estate. “Climate change,” the article reads, “is likely to have a bigger impact on valuation in the future as asset and market liquidity are affected.”

Asset and market liquidity mean that the market seizes up, that you can't sell your house. Of course, that matches Freddie Mac's prediction because, if the person you are trying to sell your house to can't get a mortgage because the bank thinks, at the end of 30 years, the property is going to be literally underwater or that the bank will not be able to get insurance for its mortgage, suddenly, you have a real problem in selling that house. Now you are only selling to cash buyers, and that is a dramatic shift in the price

you can get. That is why Freddie Mac is talking about the coastal property value crash.

The following day, on April 9, the investment advisory firm Mercer comes out with another report that describes this warning is the latest from the financial sector of the physical and financial risks posed by rising temperatures. Some investment strategists warn of physical and social damage cascading across the economy.

Again, these are not environmentalists. This is an investment advisory firm. It is warning us of financial perils ahead if we don't start paying attention. A part of it is the loss in value or simply the outright loss of wide swaths of coastal property. So, when I come back to rely on mine as a coastal State, I hope my colleagues here can appreciate that this isn't funny when you are talking about the loss of value or simply about the outright loss of wide swaths of coastal property.

The scenarios aren't good. They are negative for global growth, and they aren't really great for anyone. It is a declining global economy that has no big winners spiking up, and it can move fast. Asset prices, they say, could quickly shift to reflect the risk. There could be material impacts, especially at the sector level, in a relatively short period of time. That is how crashes work. They creep up on you, and then they crash. That is why they call them crashes.

Next, on April 18, 2019—9 days later—we have the central banks. Thirty central banks around the world called for a better assessment of the risks from higher global temperatures. As Senator SCHATZ pointed out, the U.S. Fed and the Central Bank of Brazil were among the institutions not involved in the initiative. It is pathetic on our part.

Climate change is identified as a source of financial risk that these financial regulators feel is well within their mandate to begin to address. They considered that the report issued a loud wake-up call for the global economy to act on climate change. Good luck getting through the muscling of the fossil fuel industry around this particular building, but the wake-up call is ringing in the financial community.

Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England—who was warned about this previously—and Villeroy de Galhau, the Governor of the Bank of France, warned that climate change and the poor management of the transition to a low-carbon economy have the potential to trigger a “sudden collapse in asset prices that could devastate the global financial systems.”

“If some companies and industries fail to adjust to this new world,” they argue, “they will fail to exist.”

Again, as others have said, the article argues that the costs of decarbonization are likely to be small compared to the costs of not taking action.

Yet again, we are listening to the fossil fuel industry here. It has a huge

stake in all of this. It has a huge conflict of interest. It has control over a significant part of Congress, and it is blocking us from taking the essential safe, low-cost path.

The last one is from April 17, the Network for Greening the Financial System, which is the comprehensive report by a group of central banks. Again, it points out that these climate-related risks are a source of financial risk.

Indeed, the head of the Bank of England—the regulator for insurance and banking in the UK—has described this as a systemic risk. What is a systemic risk? That means that when the entity collapses, like when the carbon asset bubble collapses, it doesn't just take the carbon asset bubble companies down with it; the rest of the economy pours in behind, and you have a systemic economic meltdown. Just like happened in 2003, it wasn't just the banks with the junk mortgages that failed; a whole bunch of others businesses got sucked into that vortex, and the same is predicted here.

They point out a couple of final things about the nature of this financial risk:

One, it is far-reaching in its breadth and magnitude. That is an ominous description of a financial risk. It is potentially aggravated by tipping points in a nonlinear fashion; i.e., it gets to a certain point and then crashes. We New Englanders appreciate this when we have the snow melt in the springtime. The snow piles up on the roof of your house. It piles up storm by storm and snowflake by snowflake. But one warm spring day, you suddenly hear “woomph” outside because the whole snowpack on your roof has slid off. It is a catastrophic failure of snow adhesion in that case. In this case, it is an example of how quickly a nonlinear tipping point can lead into economic distress.

Two, it is foreseeable. We know it is coming. There is a high degree of certainty that these risks will materialize. We know perfectly well this is coming; we just won't do anything about it because the people who have to deal with it first—the fossil fuel industry—have this place tied in knots.

Three, irreversibility. When it happens, there is no going back. There is currently no mature technology to reverse the process of overheating our climate and acidifying our ocean. For our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren, that leaves a pretty bleak prospect that we have just discounted away as if they weren't going to be born, as if they didn't exist now, as if this weren't going to happen, as if we shouldn't care. Irreversibility.

Here is the last one: dependency on short-term actions. The magnitude and the nature of these irreversible, foreseeable, far-reaching, future impacts will be determined by actions taken today. It will be determined by actions taken today. If we don't make the right decisions now, our mistakes, our

indolence, our ignorance, our greed, our subservience to this industry—whatever it is—will cascade through the decades irreversibly with far-reaching impact. They will look back at us and say: It was foreseeable. Didn't you guys know this was foreseeable? You were told. You were warned. How could you have done nothing?

I don't have a very good answer.

It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, each year during National Police Week we honor our law enforcement officers and the families who support them and sacrifice alongside them. It is so important to remember that, as much as the sacrifice of the officer or the man or woman overseas fighting for our country, the sacrifice of the family is in many ways just as great.

They all give so much in service to their communities. Too many make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe.

This year we add the names of four Ohioans to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Ohioans who laid down their lives last year were Officer Eric Joering of Westerville, a Columbus suburb; Officer Anthony Morelli, also of Westerville; Officer Vu Nguyen of Cleveland; and Officer Matthew Mazany, of Mentor, a community east of Cleveland along Lake Erie. Each of these losses is a tragedy for a family, for a community, for their fellow officers.

Sadly, we already know the names of two people who will be added to the memorial next year: Detective William Brewer of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office east of Cincinnati and Officer Dale Woods of the Colerain Township Police Department near Cincinnati. Both were killed in the line of duty in 2019.

We can't begin to repay the debt we owe them and their families, but we can work harder, frankly, to support their families and their fellow officers as they work to keep our communities safe.

It is why I am working with my colleague Senator PORTMAN on our bipartisan POWER Act to get officers the tools they need to screen for dangerous opioids in their communities.

This bill builds on my INTERDICT Act, which the President signed into law last year. That law is getting new, portable, handheld screening devices to Customs and Border Protection agents to detect fentanyl and carfentanil at the U.S. border and stop them before they reach Ohio streets.

The POWER Act will give our local and State law enforcement access to the same high-tech tools.

All of our law enforcement officers know how big of an issue illegal fentanyl has become. They deal with it, it seems, almost every day.

This week I am joining Senator INHOFE to introduce the bipartisan Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act.

We have seen too many officers hurt. We have seen far too many police officers and sheriff's deputies and Federal agents killed responding to people in their communities suffering a mental health crisis. This bill would invest in training to help officers resolve those situations safely for themselves and for the communities they serve.

This National Police Week, let's offer more than gratitude to the people who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Let's support these women and men by getting them the tools they need to do their jobs for themselves and for our communities.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, over the past couple of months, we have seen State legislatures around the country taking drastic, unconstitutional steps to insert themselves into personal, private healthcare decisions that should be—and have been in the past—between a woman and her doctor.

Ohio and Georgia, two States that wouldn't seem on the surface to have that much in common, have both passed laws that would fundamentally eliminate a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

Who made these laws? It is always the same. It is predominantly men who don't even understand how women's bodies and how preventive care like birth control work.

We have one Ohio legislator, a man, who sponsored a bill banning insurance companies from covering certain types of birth control, and then he admitted he didn't really know how birth control actually works.

When asked about the different kinds of medications and birth control devices, he said: "I don't know because I'm not smart enough to know." But he thinks he should make decisions for women.

You would think he is smart enough to know better. You would think that millions of Ohio women know best how to take care of their own bodies.

He was also making up medical procedures. He actually wrote into a version of the Ohio bill an exception allowing insurance companies to cover a made-up medical procedure where a doctor would reimplant an egg from an ectopic pregnancy.

This is a total fantasy. No such medical procedure exists, yet that is what he did.

He is 1 of 99 votes in the Ohio legislature, and he happens to be in the majority, and he happens to be one of the authors of these bills, and he happens to be a supporter of whatever it takes to put Planned Parenthood out of business.

It is not only idiotic to suggest that those medical procedures exist, it is actively harmful to spread information,

not to mention insensitive or cruel—that might be the better word—to the women and families coping with the very real struggles involved in an ectopic pregnancy. That inaccuracy in the law could create serious confusion about how and when doctors could treat women for ectopic pregnancies and put women's health at risk.

After he was asked over and over again what in the world he was talking about, he said: "That's clearly not my area of expertise."

Yet he was going to legislate in an area where, self-admittedly, he didn't have expertise. He was going to tell women what they had to do—fantasy or not—with birth control. He was going to try to tell women what to do with their own bodies. He thought it was a good idea to legislate on it and to insert himself in the medical decisions of millions of women in my State.

Unfortunately, this administration is only making things worse. President Trump and the men he has put in charge, the judges he has appointed—look at the Supreme Court—put their thumb on the scale of justice, always choosing corporations over workers, always choosing Wall Street over consumers, always choosing insurance companies over sick people and, frankly, increasingly over women's bodies and women's decisions.

President Trump and the men he has put in charge are encouraging these male lawmakers in States like Ohio and Georgia and Alabama, where it may be worst of all—they are taking the country backward when it comes to women's health.

Rather than making it easier for women to get care, they make it harder. This administration put out a new rule 2 weeks ago that would allow healthcare providers to refuse to provide needed care for a woman if the treatment supposedly violates their personal beliefs.

In other words, if a woman had a miscarriage and she came in needing emergency care, the doctor could refuse to treat her simply based on his own personal issues and biases. How does that follow the physician mantra of "do no harm"?

It is not just medical professionals who could refuse care; it is hospitals, and it is insurance companies too. I don't know how anyone could suggest a for-profit insurance company has a conscience, yet, apparently under these kinds of laws, it does.

Under this rule, an insurance company can consider the coverage of some services—and we know these are always services related to women, and they are always services related to LGBTQ people, all Americans—against that corporation's supposed conscience. So if the corporation doesn't believe in human rights, doesn't believe in equality of gay people, of LGBTQ people, doesn't believe women should have control over their bodies, that corporation, licensed under the law—they have a conscience, and they can refuse care.

That is what these legislatures are doing, and that is what this President wants to do.

That conscience clause that these corporations and these insurance companies say they believe—I wish that conscience clause would kick in when they are raising premiums, when they deny people coverage for their medication. When they take away an exclusion for a preexisting condition, where they cancel someone's insurance or never insure them because of a preexisting condition, that is not a conscience thing because they are a corporation, but when it comes to women's health, it is.

One woman from Butler County in Southwest Ohio wrote, and she said:

I'd like to know why insurance companies are allowed to pick and choose the drugs they will and will not cover. Since when did they become doctors?

This is just the latest in a long line of rules that hurt women.

They have rolled back title X protections, instituting a new gag rule that would ban many clinics from talking about birth control and family planning options with their patients, limiting their patients' access to accurate medical information.

I just don't understand. Some of these people don't like abortion. I understand that. They want to take away women's healthcare decisions, but they will not help women get contraceptives, and they will not explain the options women have when they come in and want to talk to the doctor about those kinds of things. I just don't get that.

I get letters from women in Ohio who also don't get that, who are scared about what these changes mean.

One woman from Mahoning County wrote to me:

I am a 24 year old woman living with PCOS, a hormonal disorder. Complications of PCOS include Type 2 Diabetes, high risks of miscarriage and infertility, and even cancer.

It is not curable, but it can be treated with birth control.

This domestic gag order will put millions of women at risk across this country.

Let me read again what she said:

I am a 24 year old woman living with PCOS, a hormonal disorder. Complications include Type 2 Diabetes, high risk of miscarriage and infertility, even cancer.

It is not curable, but can be treated with birth control.

This domestic gag order will put millions of women at risk across the country.

Who said these people can practice medicine when they are without a license and do these kinds of things?

I hope my colleagues will think about these women. I hope my colleagues, especially my male colleagues, will spend a little more time trying to help women get the healthcare they need instead of trying to meddle in decisions that always, always, always should be between a woman and her doctor.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THEODORE ROKITA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 3, 2021, VICE DEREK TAI-CHING KAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN LESLIE CARWILE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

MONICA DAVID MORRIS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 14, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL J. TRUNCALE, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF COUNCILWOMAN ELSIE
FRANKLIN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most passionate and dedicated citizens, Lake County Councilwoman Elsie Franklin. Councilwoman Franklin passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019, at the age of 81. Her unwavering commitment to her constituents and her community is worthy of the highest praise, and she will be greatly missed by her family, friends, co-workers, and the many grateful residents whose lives she touched.

Elsie was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and moved to Gary, Indiana, at a young age. She attended Gary Roosevelt High School and built her life in the city of Gary. Ms. Franklin was a member of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church and was very active in her faith throughout her lifetime. For Elsie, being able to improve her community and assist those in need was her life's purpose. She is remembered by family and friends as a role model who stood up for those who did not have a voice.

Throughout her lifetime of public service, Elsie Franklin served the people of Gary and Lake County in numerous capacities. She was the director of Gary's General Services under Mayor Thomas Barnes while also holding positions on various boards, charities, and organizations throughout the years. In 2002, she was elected to serve on the Lake County Council, representing the 2nd district. This victory marked the first time an African-American woman would serve on the Lake County Council. She was passionate about the people of her district and the issues they faced. Many remember her actively working to secure funding for services within the Lake County Juvenile Court system. The challenges facing the youth in the city of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana were a priority for her, and Councilwoman Franklin was a true hero for her hard work and dedication to the children of our communities. Elsie served on the Lake County Council for the past seventeen years, and she was an outstanding activist for the people of her district and the city of Gary.

Councilwoman Franklin was also a strong leader for the Democratic Party in Northwest Indiana for many years. Throughout her remarkable career, spanning over 50 years, she served her party in numerous capacities. Elsie served as vice chairwoman of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee, and she was the first African-American woman to chair the Gary Democratic Precinct Organization.

Elsie Franklin is survived by her beloved children: Cherylynn, Michael, Kimberly, Kenya, Keesha, Theodore, and Dara. She also leaves to cherish her memory many dear friends and

family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Elsie Franklin. For her outstanding contributions to the city of Gary and to the community of Northwest Indiana, she is to be commended. Elsie Franklin's legacy will be forever remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come.

REMEMBERING LAURENCE M.
BLOCH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday May 14, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember an important mentor, advisor and my quasi-brother/father, Laurence M. Bloch, whom the world knew as "Larry." Larry, a Memphis native and longtime real estate investor and contributor to humanitarian causes, passed away on February 23 in Santa Monica, California, at the age of 87.

A font of sage advice, Larry was constantly there for me and for many others who loved him for the caring individual he was. After graduating from Christian Brothers High School in 1949, Larry went to the University of Michigan, and led a group of Wolverines fans traveling by train with the team to the 1951 Rose Bowl where Michigan beat the California Golden Bears 14 to 6. Larry graduated with a degree in economics in 1953 then served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to Memphis where he was involved in the millinery business before settling into the real estate investment business.

He remained an avid Michigan fan his whole life and used to tape every game. Known for his disheveled salt-and-pepper hair and socksless and tie-less style, and for riding his bicycle like Albert Einstein, he also drove around town in a Lincoln Continental with coach doors. He celebrated healthy eating habits as a prophet of whole grains and fiber. An investor with a keen eye for good deals in Memphis' downtown, he had the good sense and good fortune to own the property kitty-corner from The Peabody on Union Avenue that was torn down to create AutoZone Park.

A patron of the arts, he also supported the Memphis Crisis Center, Meals on Wheels and the Church Health Center among his charitable causes. As a cat lover, another of his charitable causes was The House of Mews, where he was for a while the top cat. A charming story teller, he provided useful advice and helped many people solve their problems. Larry liked: long walks, telling stories, giving advice, peanuts, cashmere sweaters, everything else cashmere, trains, maize and blue signs, a studied careless appearance, salads and, more than anything, Cheryl and his grandsons. Larry didn't like: being photo-

graphed, zoos, recognition, Ohio State or work hours extending two hours either side of lunch.

I was fortunate to have had him as a good friend and will miss him greatly. Much of what I am and have been is because of Larry Bloch. I thank Larry. I want to extend my condolences to his daughter Cheryl, to his grandsons Nick and Alex, to his sister Joyce whom he loved, and her family, and to his multitude of adoring friends. Larry Bloch led an exemplary life.

HONORING BEATRICE "BEBE"
COKER

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of my colleagues Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Beatrice "Bebe" Coker, a mother, sister, artist, advocate, mentor, leader, and recipient of the 2019 John H. Taylor Jr. Education Leadership Award.

Bebe, as she is affectionately called, is a lifelong advocate for quality public education, the arts, and diversity and inclusion. She was honored by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce affiliate, The Partnership, Inc., at Superstars in Education Reception and Awards Ceremony on May 13, 2019, for her unrelenting dedication and leadership in advancing education for all children and making our community a better place to live and work.

Ms. Coker is a revered community mobilizer and literacy advocate, as well as a champion of social justice in Delaware. Among her many contributions to our state, Ms. Bebe was appointed by former Gov. Pierre S. du Pont to join the Citizens Alliance for Public Education to ensure the peaceful desegregation of Delaware schools. She has volunteered for countless organizations, including The Christiana Cultural Art Center, the NAACP Young Adults Group and the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. She chaired the State Civil Rights Commission and has aided numerous organizations focused on literacy.

Bebe holds a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a Doctor of Humanities from Delaware State University. She is a playwright, poet, and lyricist. She is, quite simply, a renaissance woman.

Never one to shy away from fighting for what she believed in, her work throughout Delaware has had a tremendous impact on us all. As a writer, or through her work in the community, she has always been an honest story teller—the stories of our past, our present, and those that inform the work we do to create a better future.

A mentor to many young people, Ms. Coker's greatest source of pride and support is embodied in her three "daughter/best

• 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.

friends”, retired Capt. Laurie Coker, U.S. Navy Public Health Services, CDC, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Joan Coker, Head and Neck Surgeon, Wilmington, DE; and Julie Coker Graham, President & CEO, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. While each has accomplished much in the “career-world”, Ms. Coker’s pride stems from each embracing a love of service to others as their privilege and responsibility.

A community activist in Delaware for over 50 years, Bebe is an inspiration to me. I am proud to stand here today with my fellow Delawareans honoring an extraordinary woman with an extraordinary heart, who is steadfast and unmovable in our community and who consistently sacrifices her time and talent to improve the lives of others. Ms. Coker’s anchor is her strong faith in God and lifelong words she was taught to live by, “Don’t let your talents take you, where your character can’t keep you. It is all about the “integrity of one—you”.

SAVANNA’S ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, Native women in the U.S. face tragically high rates of violence, sexual assault, and murder. According to the CDC, murder is the third leading cause of death among Native women, with rates of violence ten times that of the national average on reservations.

I rise today in support of Savanna’s Act, which will recognize Native women victims and make sure that their invisibility by law enforcement ends. I understand the devastating effects of colonization and the disproportionate harm and risk for Native women. We must work together to pass Savanna’s Act, which will substantially strengthen federal and tribal investigations into the disappearance of Indigenous women, and increase the likelihood of prosecuting these violent crimes.

Savanna’s Act will also create and improve procedures, communication, and cooperation among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies that may share jurisdiction over these crimes. These provisions will also improve recording and sharing of data so these women are no longer invisible to law enforcement.

I thank Rep. TORRES for taking the lead on this important piece of legislation. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this life-saving legislation, and I urge House leaders to move swiftly to bring it to the floor for a vote.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHIEF DAVID FRENZEL WITH THE ORANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great man and thank him for fifty years of service to the City of Orange’s Fire Department, Chief David Frenzel. Chief

Frenzel was born on June 25, 1947 to E.P. and Sophia Frenzel in Orange, Texas. He and his brother, Dolan, were raised there and attended public school.

Chief Frenzel began his college career at Lamar Tech anticipating a career in the medical field. In the spring of 1969 Fire Chief Vertis Sands called and offered him a job with the fire department on a Thursday. He withdrew from classes at Lamar on Friday and went to work at the fire department on Saturday, April 19, 1969. The rest, as they say, is history. Chief Frenzel did go on to earn his degree from Lamar University in Fire Protection Technology in 1978 and completed the Executive Officer program through the National Fire Academy in 2000.

Through the years, Chief Frenzel advanced through the ranks at the fire department and was named Fire Chief in 1997. Today he continues to serve in that capacity, claiming that he still has a few things he would like to accomplish within the department before retirement.

In addition to his firefighter duties, Chief Frenzel has volunteered in many capacities throughout the community, including service on St. Mary’s Catholic Church Pastoral Council; serving on the boards of the Sabine Neches Chief Association and Lamar Institute of Technology; and serving as Scout Master for Troop 1 for twenty-five years with 75 young men earning the rank of Eagle Scout under his leadership.

Chief Frenzel and his wife Hildy have been married for 41 years and have two sons, David and Adam, both of whom were valedictorians at West Orange Stark High School and went on to graduate from Texas A & M University. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren Charlie, Sam, Andy, Abigail, and Alden.

Chief Frenzel is known for his humble ways, quick wit, and knowledge of Orange history. His most admirable quality is his love of God, his family, and for the Orange Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chief Frenzel on his half century of dedicated service to the Orange Fire Department and in thanks of a heroism few share, but all are grateful for.

RECOGNIZING BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF COLLIN COUNTY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, in October 1968, the “Boys Club of McKinney” under the leadership of Mr. Henry L. Shoap, was created to assist young men in developing the skills, attitudes, and aptitudes to make successful decisions in life. In April 1969, after receiving incorporation from the national organization, the Club would officially open its doors on the historic McKinney Square.

A decade later, girls would be admitted to the organization. However, it would take another seven years for the Club to officially change its name to the Boys & Girls Clubs of McKinney. In time, the Club came to be a popular destination for kids from around Collin

County to assemble in a safe and fun learning environment.

In 1988, in order to expand their area of service, the Club would officially change its name one final time to Boys & Girls Club of Collin County. Similar to its inception fifty years ago, the mission remains largely the same: To enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible individuals.

The Boys & Girls Club of Collin County provides a valuable service—and sometimes the only option—to those children needing a place to go after school. Today, over 10,000 Collin County children and teens are regularly served by locations in McKinney, Plano, and Frisco. Kids who attend the Club are afforded a variety of programs and activities that assist in allowing them to meet key areas of development while gaining independence and learning tools to become productive members of their community.

For this reason, I am proud to congratulate Boys & Girls Club of Collin County on their 50th anniversary of service to a grateful community. Under the leadership of so many selfless individuals, including current CEO E. Michael Simpson, your dedicated team of leaders has worked to ensure that those who would most benefit from the services provided by your organization are allowed to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this tremendous organization for improving the lives of countless children over the past five decades while growing our next generation of community leaders.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend several exceptional leaders from Indiana who will be honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2019. While there are many deserving nominees, this year’s inductees include Kenneth J. Allen, Benito Gamba, Ron McColly, and David Van Eekeren. In addition, U.S. Steel will be presented with the Enterprise of the Year Award. For their many contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees will be recognized at the 12th Annual Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, and United States Senator TODD YOUNG will serve as keynote speakers for this special event.

Kenneth J. Allen graduated from Gary Lew Wallace High School and went on to study at Valparaiso University and the Indiana University School of Law. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Allen worked in construction and then for a railroad company at a steel mill. After graduating law school, Ken opened his law firm in Valparaiso, focusing on personal injury

and wrongful death litigation. Today, his business consists of six locations, three in Indiana and three in Illinois. The Kenneth Allen Law Group tirelessly seeks out cases that can bring about true change in society. Mr. Allen also gives much of his time and support to various charitable endeavors, including the Lake Area United Way and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana.

Benito Gamba is the founder and owner of Gamba Ristorante, located in Merrillville, Indiana. Benito was born in Altomonte, Italy, and moved to the United States in 1977. After working in several established restaurants, Mr. Gamba opened his own place, Café Venezia, in 1988. In 2001, he then opened the Venezia Bar and Grill, which was followed by the opening of his current establishment, Gamba Ristorante, in 2006. At this time in his life, Benito is focused on providing good jobs and continuing to share his love of food with the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Ron McColly, a Gary native, is the owner of McColly Real Estate, the largest residential real estate company in Northwest Indiana. Throughout the years, Mr. McColly continued to build his business, and he has been immensely successful due to his outstanding leadership skills and determination. Today, McColly Real Estate consists of twenty-three real estate offices throughout the region. The McColly Company includes: Community Title, McColly Bennett Commercial, McColly Insurance, McColly Auctions, and the McColly School of Real Estate. Ron has continuously given back to the community through charitable support for numerous organizations, including the Methodist Hospitals Foundation and the Crown Point YMCA, among many others.

David Van Eekeren is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Land O'Frost, a processed deli meat company that is headquartered in Munster, Indiana. David is the third generation of his family to run the business. Land O'Frost is currently the third largest producer of processed deli meats in the United States and has plants in Illinois, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Under Mr. Van Eekeren's leadership the company continues to grow and is focused on adding new and innovative products. David gives back to his community in many ways, especially through his support for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and his service as a trustee for the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is U.S. Steel for recently pledging two billion dollars to a company-wide asset revitalization program. A large part of the revitalization program is allocated for Gary Works, which is the largest integrated steel mill in North America and stretches for seven miles along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Gary Works currently employs more than 3,800 people, providing good jobs for hard-working families throughout the region. The revitalization program will ensure that the company is able to continue building the economy in Gary and Northwest Indiana for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and commitment

to the region and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and commemoration of the many victims and survivors of gun violence and to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Nevada's Third Congressional District.

On average, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence every day and nearly 13,000 gun homicides occur each year. Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries.

Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories, and protecting the public's safety in the communities they serve.

Representatives and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe.

In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 22nd birthday. To honor Hadiya—and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day—a national coalition of organizations has designated June 7, 2019, the first Friday in June, as the 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

The idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this orange for two reasons: hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange symbolizes the value of human life.

Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2019, to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.

We renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I unintentionally missed an amendment vote due to conversation with other members. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 191.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MARGARITA LÓPEZ PRENTICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Washington State Senator Margarita López Prentice, who will be remembered for her dedication to public service.

I had the pleasure of serving with Ms. López Prentice in the Washington State Legislature, where she was the first Latina elected as a Washington State Senator. After first being elected in 1988, she served as a public official in the Washington State House of Representatives for four years, and then in the Washington Senate, for 27 years. Before her retirement in 2013, Ms. López Prentice served as the Senate Pro Tempore, and as Chairwoman of various committees. She was known for her caring manner, her mentorship, and her ability to forge bipartisan partnerships. Ms. López Prentice's many contributions to the State Legislature earned her the distinction of Legislator of the Year in 2006 from several organizations, including the Washington Health Care Association and the Washington State Labor Council.

Ms. López Prentice was dedicated to bettering the lives of others. Her career in nursing and her passion for women's health, LGBTQ rights, veterans' benefits, and migrant workers' rights, demonstrate her commitment to helping others. During her 30-year career as a nurse and nurse administrator, Ms. López Prentice was active in the Washington State Nurses Association, where she ultimately became vice president of the association. Ms. López Prentice spent countless hours giving back to the Renton community through her service for the Renton Historical Society and the Renton Area Youth Services, as well as on the Renton School Board.

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Senator Margarita López Prentice. I am confident that her love of public service will continue to inspire Washington State Legislators for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, due to flooding and severe weather in my district this week, I was unable to vote on May 10 and the prior day. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall No. 200.

HONORING THE LIFE AND HEROIC
ACTIONS OF RILEY HOWELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and actions of

Riley Howell, a true hero who sacrificed himself to save countless lives on May 1st at UNC Charlotte.

Riley was a 21-year-old student who had just transferred to UNC Charlotte last fall after studying at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. When a former student began shooting in his classroom, Riley was the first to ignore the danger and charge towards the gunman. Despite being shot three times, he still tackled the shooter with enough force to knock him off his feet. Riley's actions prevented the shooter from reloading and allowed campus police to intervene before any more damage could be done. However, Riley's courageous actions came at a dire cost—he passed away from his wounds.

Since Riley's passing, I have read story after story that speak to Riley's ingenuity, kind heart, love of Star Wars, and upstanding character. When folks heard about his heroic actions, they said it sounded exactly like what Riley would do to help someone in need or protect those who couldn't protect themselves. I'm as much in awe of Riley's actions as I am devastated that such carnage could happen at a place that made such a lasting impact on my life.

As a proud UNC Charlotte alumnus, my thoughts and prayers are with Riley's parents, Thomas Howell and Natalie Henry-Howell, his eight younger siblings, and all who loved him. As a father, I cannot imagine the depth of their grief and I offer my deepest condolences.

I know I speak for the entire community when I say, Riley will always be remembered for his heroic and selfless actions and I will do everything in my power to honor his memory and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Riley Howell and his heroic actions.

HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR ON THEIR 136TH ANNUAL NEW YORK DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Department of New York of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as they gather for their 136th annual encampment.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization founded nationally in 1881. Their mission is to preserve the history and legacy of those who fought and worked and died to preserve the Union. Its members are all descendants of soldiers, sailors, marines and revenue cutter service members who served honorably during the war.

The New York Department was founded two years after the national organization in 1883. Since that time, they have met annually in an encampment to conduct business, plan future volunteer activities and elect leaders. This historic organization has been dedicated to preserving the memory and legacy of those who bravely served for generations. They have volunteered their time at historical cemeteries en-

suring that the monuments and headstones of civil war veterans do not fall into disrepair and are maintained for future generations to see and reflect on. They also maintain an impressive collection of U.S. flags used by the military as far back as the War of 1812.

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War do us all a great service by preserving the memory and physical reminders of our history for future generations. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank them for 136 years of dedicated public service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANNING SMOKING ON AMTRAK ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Banning Smoking on Amtrak Act of 2019. My bill would simply codify Amtrak's internal policy prohibiting smoking, including of electronic cigarettes, on its trains. This bill is modeled on a bill I got enacted as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–254) that clarified that the smoking ban on airplanes includes electronic cigarettes.

Although Amtrak implemented its own internal policy banning smoking on its trains in 1993, that policy could always be repealed, though Amtrak has not indicated it would do so. My bill would make the ban a matter of federal law and put Congress on the record in support of protecting people from secondhand smoke.

Smoking bans have been a critical tool in protecting people from the effects of secondhand smoke, known to increase the risk for serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases like coronary heart disease, lung cancer and emphysema, among others. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers the tobacco epidemic to be one of the biggest public health threats in the world, killing more than seven million people a year. While more than six million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use, around 890,000 non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke are also killed every year.

Under my bill, smoking would be banned on Amtrak trains in the same manner as airline travel. According to the WHO, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. Even short-term exposure can potentially increase the risk of heart attacks.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSFERABILITY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the climate crisis we face is one of the most important challenges of our time. There has been a lot of alarming news—the last four years were the hottest years on record, and

we are seeing more and more extreme weather events devastate our communities. However, one of the success stories that we've seen in our efforts to combat climate change is the growth in renewable energy, particularly among wind and solar energy.

Today Representative DARIN LAHOOD and I are introducing the Renewable Energy Transferability Act to increase the deployment of renewable energy resources by making them transferable. This bipartisan legislation allows any entity involved in a renewable energy project to make a transfer after the due date of return (including extensions) of the Production Tax Credit and the Investment Tax Credit on a limited basis.

These two tax credits are some of the most successful renewable energy policies on the books, yet they have been hampered by requiring their beneficiaries to enter into complex tax arrangements. Transferability will allow these credits to reach a wider base of investors, expanding the deployment of renewable energy and lowering carbon emissions for consumers.

At a time of unprecedented climatic changes and public calls for action, Congress must act. While this legislation can only play part of a role in helping address the climate crisis, it takes an important step in assisting a key industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the Renewable Energy Transferability Act into law.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DOUG JEFFE

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Doug Jefe. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Doug was both a prominent figure in California politics and an invaluable member of our community. It was an honor for me to have known Mr. Jefe, and I am incredibly sad he is no longer with us.

For over two decades, Doug was the aide and protégé of California State Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh. He later put this experience to work as a campaign manager, policy advocate, and writer. In 1995, Doug founded Issues Management Network, a firm that specializes in message engineering and ballot measure campaigns. Doug used his policy experience and campaign skills to promote measures that would help others: for example, in 2002, Doug led a successful ballot measure campaign that secured funds to save and support trauma centers in Los Angeles County. No matter what he was working on, Doug's colleagues always noted his unflagging good humor and genial nature, an attitude that garnered him many friends over the years.

In addition to his work as a political professional, Doug was also the president of the Board of Directors of L.A. Theatre Works and served on the board of the Venice Family Clinic, two important community institutions in our region. He also contributed to the political blog Fox & Hounds Daily and lectured on political communications at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Doug is survived by his beloved wife, Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, with whom he spent over 50 years traveling the world. Doug is also missed by his rescue pit bull, Kennedy, and his innumerable friends and colleagues. He will forever be remembered for his selflessness and work to make a positive meaningful impact on his community.

HONORING LEIGHA PETERSON

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leigha Peterson, the first student to earn a doctoral degree from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She graduated this weekend with a Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Science.

This is just Leigha's most recent landmark accomplishment during her impressive tenure at Coastal Carolina University. She is the first to earn all three levels of undergraduate and postgraduate education from Coastal Carolina. While earning her Ph.D., she was Coastal Carolina's first doctoral student representative and helped other students successfully interact with their professors. In addition to co-authoring 25 research papers, she also participated in research trips to Antarctica, Brazil, the Gulf of Mexico, Jamaica, and Canada to further her studies.

Leigha's graduation is not only a huge personal achievement, but a major success for Coastal Carolina University. I know Leigha will be the first of many innovators and entrepreneurs that earn prestigious degrees from Coastal Carolina University before making their mark on the world. We are all very proud of Leigha, and wish her success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACQUIE JONES-WALSH

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Jacquie Jones-Walsh, whose work combating injustice in the workplace has improved the lives of an unmeasurable amount of people in Washington State.

Ms. Jones-Walsh tirelessly worked with, and in many cases led, a number of organizations with the singular purpose of supporting the rights of all workers. Ms. Jones-Walsh fought to eliminate the barriers that people of color and women so often face. She served tirelessly as a leader representing several organizations. Ms. Jones-Walsh was the second Vice President of the Seattle King County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), State President for the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council, President of the Seattle Blacks in Government (BIG) Chapter, a founding member of the Seattle MLK Jr. Organizing Coalition, and served several terms

as President of the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) Local 843, to name a few.

A long-time advocate for expanding and protecting affirmative action, Ms. Jones-Walsh played an active part in a recent campaign to approve Initiative 1000. This Washington state initiative lifts a ban on affirmative action in education, employment and contracting and extends it to include women, veterans, people with disabilities, and all people of color. Her advocacy on this and countless other projects will be missed.

I have personally worked with Ms. Jones-Walsh several times. Each time I've had the pleasure of meeting with her, she exhibited the passion, diligence and intelligence that her groundbreaking causes deserved. It was these qualities and her devotion to the community that made her such a staple in Washington State.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life of Jacquie Jones-Walsh, whose leadership in the labor community has been an inspiration for many people. Her dedication and commitment to fighting for equality will live on through her legacy, and she will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I missed two roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

Yes on the Huffman of California Part C Amendment No. 6 on H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (Roll Call No. 199). This amendment prohibits funds in the bill from being used to enforce regulations requiring within two years construction of agency relief projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration.

Yes on the Sablan of Northern Mariana Islands Part C Amendment No. 3 on H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (Roll Call No. 198). This amendment increases funding for waste water treatment plants impacted by Typhoon Yutu by \$8,800,000 for repair and resiliency.

HONORING THOMAS J. SCHWARZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Thomas J. Schwarz, President of State University of New York, Purchase College, as the College honors him this month for his 17 years of distinguished leadership on the occasion of his retirement.

Since Mr. Schwarz was appointed as Purchase College's fifth President in 2003, the college has seen substantially improved retention and graduation rates. He prioritized social responsibility throughout his presidency. In 2007, he signed the "American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment," expressing the sense that Purchase College

would chart a course toward climate neutrality. In 2015, Purchase College constructed its first LEED Gold-certified campus building and continues to renovate existing buildings with more energy-efficient technology. Mr. Schwarz oversaw the development of the Broadview Senior Living Center, a senior living community on the Purchase College Campus that will promote lifelong learning.

Throughout his career, he was deeply committed to public service. He served as mayor of the Village of Ocean Beach, New York; Special Counsel to the New York State Commission on Government Integrity; Chief Judge to the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Integrity, and Counsel to the Governor's Judicial Screening Program. The Legal Aid Society recognized him with its Pro Bono Award in 1998.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in expressing thanks to Mr. Schwarz for his many years of outstanding public service and student advocacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Nos. 197, 198, 199, 200, 201 and 202, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 197; NAY on Roll Call No. 198; NAY on Roll Call No. 199; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; YEA on Roll Call No. 201; and NAY on Roll Call No. 202.

IN HONOR OF THE WYOMING STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wyoming State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which will hold its annual conference May 16–19, in Lander, Wyoming.

The Daughters of the American Revolution has a long tradition of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism across the country and state of Wyoming. This year at their conference, members from around the state will come together to celebrate their contributions to Wyoming history and society, and hear from a host of speakers, including other D.A.R. members from across the country.

I would also like to thank the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all they do to preserve the history of our great state and country and to promote the importance of education and patriotism of our great nation.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge the many contributions the women of the Daughters of the American Revolution have made throughout history, and continue to make today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on May 9th and 10th, I attended my son's graduation from Naval Academy Preparatory School and was therefore unable to cast my vote on several pieces of legislation. If present, I would have voted NAY on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 189) and NAY on agreeing to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 190).

I would have also voted on amendments to H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Pre-existing Conditions Act, in the following way: YEA on the Brown Amendment (Roll Call No. 191); YEA on the Holding Amendment (Roll Call No. 192); NAY on the Malinowski Amendment (Roll Call No. 193); and NAY on the Wild Amendment (Roll Call No. 194). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 986 (Roll Call No. 195) and voted NAY on passage (Roll Call No. 196). Despite its title, H.R. 986 does nothing to protect preexisting conditions. Instead, I would have supported my colleague Representative GREG WALDEN's bill, H.R. 692, the Pre-existing Conditions Protection Act, if it were brought before the House for consideration.

Furthermore, I would have voted on amendments to H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019, in the following way: NAY on the Perlmutter amendment (Roll Call No. 197); NAY on the Sabian amendment (Roll Call No. 198); NAY on the Huffman amendment (Roll Call No. 199); and YEA on the Fletcher amendment (Roll Call No. 200). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 201) and NAY on passage of H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 202). While I support targeted funding to help communities recover from flooding, especially in Minnesota, this bill carelessly adds to our growing national debt. Future generations will be forced to confront the over \$22 trillion in debt unless Washington can find a way to reform the appropriations process to address unchecked federal spending.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLIS
"REED" PARLIER**
HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier, a young man from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District whose life was taken much too soon on May 1st of this year.

Reed was full of passion, wit and intelligence. A top student and avid gamer, Reed planned to turn his love of video games into a Computer Science degree and a career as a game developer. He had the reputation of being gifted academically with a witty sense of humor, and had his whole life ahead of him as he finished his freshman year at UNC Charlotte.

It absolutely breaks my heart that Reed's life was taken from us during a tragic, sense-

less shooting on UNC Charlotte's campus. My years at UNC Charlotte made an indelible impact on who I am today, and I was shaken to my core when I learned of Reed's death last week. My thoughts and prayers are with Reed's family during this time of sorrow. As a father, I cannot imagine the depth of your grief.

I know I speak for the entire 49er community when I say we all share your pain and mourning—no one deserves to lose a child, especially on a campus like UNC Charlotte where so many terrific, transformative experiences take place for tens of thousands of students each year.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier.

**RECOGNIZING KATHY HAGGART
ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 22
YEARS AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS
CLUBS OF BELLEVUE**
HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kathy Haggart, the CEO and President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, on her retirement.

Kathy Haggart has had a remarkable career in the nonprofit sector—having worked in nonprofit management for nearly 36 years. Ms. Haggart has spent the majority of her nonprofit work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serving as the President and CEO for 22 years. She was appointed as the President and CEO in 1997 after a successful term as the Club's Director of Development. In her position as President and CEO, Kathy oversaw 12 Club locations and managed a multi-million dollar budget. Ms. Haggart is an incredible, high-performing leader with an exceptional ability to bring teams together.

During her time as President and CEO, Ms. Haggart fostered strong relationships between the Boys & Girls Clubs and the larger community. She strengthened partnerships with the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, the King County Housing Authority, Youth Eastside Services, and other notable community organizations. She has helped shift the focus of the Clubs to include community outreach and services for parents as well.

Under her guidance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue expanded from one clubhouse to over 12 program sites. Additionally, the Club received many awards for program excellence from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and local organizations. These include "Best of" recognition in several local publications, and selection as a "Community Treasure" by a local school. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serve over 11,000 children and teenagers with educational programming, afterschool activities, summer programs, and athletics. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue thrived under Ms. Haggart's innovative leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Kathy Haggart on her retirement from her longtime service to the adolescents of the Bellevue community.

IN HONOR OF HELENA SCHWARZ

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with bittersweet sentiment and thanks to my Legislative Director, Helena Schwarz.

Helena has spent her career focusing on public service. Working in the Maryland Legislature, and eventually here in the U.S. House of Representatives, she has always found ways to support policies and people she believes in.

Helena joined my office more than four years ago after serving in the office of my colleague, Congressman SARBANES from Maryland. During her tenure on "Team Boyle" she has been a steady hand that provided guidance to the legislative team and substantive policy advice to me. She is thorough, dedicated, and always willing to advocate for policies in which she believes.

A Michigan native, Helena quickly adapted to the City of Brotherly Love. In her time here, she's worked tirelessly to elevate the voices of blue-collar workers and the shrinking middle class, and to ensure that all Americans have a fair shot at achieving the American Dream. The people we serve in my district have greatly benefited from her service to this institution.

Helena will still be part of the important policy debates we have ahead of us, as she leaves to lead an advocacy effort focused on America's infrastructure agenda.

I wish her the best of luck on this venture, and I look forward to seeing her package on the House floor in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER IN-
FRASCTURE TRUST FUND
ACT**
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, America's water systems are in crisis. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$14 billion per year for the next 20 years, funding has averaged less than \$1.5 billion annually since 2011. Drinking water infrastructure is in worse shape—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that we need to invest over \$23 billion annually for the next 20 years to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, while Congress typically appropriates less than \$1 billion a year. Though most of our water and wastewater systems are 75–100 years old, these growing challenges are not due to age alone: federal investment has fallen more than 85 percent since 1977. Last year alone, American communities suffered more than 250,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems. These problems will only increase with inadequate and inconsistent funding. That is why I am introducing the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2019.

This legislation will provide a small, deficit-neutral source of revenue to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical clean and

drinking water facilities. Half of the trust fund revenue will be distributed to local governments as grants and loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater treatment construction, while the other half will be distributed through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to finance projects to meet federal drinking water standards. The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund will be capitalized by a voluntary labeling and fee system, to which businesses that rely on a clean water source can opt-in. Participating businesses would include a small label on their products indicating their commitment to protecting America's clean water, contributing \$0.03 to the trust fund per labelled unit. Businesses and products that could take advantage of the labeling system include: water-based beverages, products disposed of in wastewater, and pharmaceuticals.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to reduce pollution, protect public health, and provide the funding communities need to ensure clean tap water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2019, I was present and voted for two bills on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I voted in favor of H.R. 1520, the Purple Book Continuity Act. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 188. I voted to advance the legislation out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and supported its passage on the House floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE J.W. DARDEN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1969

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School in Opelika, Alabama.

The purple and gold Panther alumni are celebrating their 50 years since graduation. The graduating class had 107 students and date of graduation was May 1969. Class officers included: President—Charles Harper, Vice President—Harvey Jackson, Secretary—Evelyn Melton and Treasurer—Frances Forman. Mr. Wilbert D. Payne, Jr. serves as local Chairperson of the 1969 graduating class.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School and congratulate them on this 50-year milestone.

RECOGNIZING JON FINE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 18 YEARS AT UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jon Fine, the CEO and President of United Way of King County, on his retirement.

Jon Fine has served as the CEO and President of United Way of King County for the past 18 years. He has been credited with making King County one of the leading branches of United Way. Before joining United Way, Mr. Fine had a distinguished career in finance, which aided his ability to restructure United Way of King County's giving program.

Under his leadership, United Way of King County's programs have thrived. Mr. Fine led the growth of the homelessness prevention program to include over 2,200 units of permanent supportive housing. In addition, Mr. Fine's commitment to ensuring all youth have access to education helped to scale the United Way's parent-child home program from serving 160 families to over 1,300 families—with the goal of providing better educational outcomes for low-income children. Mr. Fine also spearheaded the creation of the Gates Challenge Endowment, which is one of the largest fundraising campaigns of any United Way chapter.

Throughout his tenure, Jon Fine fostered innovative partnerships with businesses and other organizations that strengthened United Way of King County. Mr. Fine always encouraged program staff to think big. He challenged them to reach more people, start more services, and expand fundraising. Mr. Fine's commitment to service, innovative thinking, and vibrant nature are sure to remain with the United Way of King County going forward.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Jon Fine on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of King County.

THE BAJRAKTARIS—50 YEARS IN AMERICA—A STORY OF STRUGGLE, PERSEVERANCE, AND TRIUMPH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary Albanian-American family and my constituents, the Bajraktaris, and their journey of struggles and triumphs. Long before they came to the United States, this family earned its place in history books with acts of great bravery and generosity. The Bajraktaris originally hail from their hometown of Vranoc, located on the outside of Peja, a city in Kosova. Throughout history, they were locally recognized leaders who led more than 40 villages in the struggle for the freedom of Kosova.

Empires came and went, but the Bajraktaris remained. Their famous family towers and

homes were burned down at least five times by various groups such as the Ottomans, the Serbs, the Montenegrins, the Fascists, the Nazis and then by the Communists. Each time they stood up to the invaders, chased them out, and rebuilt their communities. They were proud of their freedom, their Albanian heritage and tradition, and they were proud defenders of their homeland.

This is the context in which, Harry Bajraktari, a well-known Albanian-American leader, was born and grew up. Throughout his life, Harry was inspired by the stories of struggle for the survival of the Albanian nation and the perseverance of his ancestors.

In 1969, the life of his family reached a turning point. Facing political oppression by the Yugoslav government and economic hardship, his parents, Metë and Ziza Bajraktari, decided to journey to the United States of America, together with their four children, including Harry, and his siblings, Nurija, Litafete and Hateme.

They traveled by train to Italy, where they applied for political asylum in the United States. After nine months away from home, their application was approved, and on February 24, 1970, the Bajraktari family arrived in New York. They had no money and spoke no English. Through their new community, they found help from other families and friends who had previously immigrated to the United States. At the beginning, they lived at the home of Musli and Hysen Mulosmani and their family, who hosted them with generosity in The Bronx, NY.

Over the last 50 years, I can personally attest that the Bajraktari family have achieved the American Dream. They have been hard-working and dedicated, and they have made the most of the opportunities that their new homeland has had to offer. Still, like many immigrants, life was not easy. Metë Bajraktari worked as a maintenance worker during the day and his wife Ziza as a janitor during the night. Through sacrifice and determination, Metë and Ziza strived to give their children a chance for a better life.

Their sacrifices soon paid off. At the early age of 20, my good friend, Harry Bajraktari, exhibited extraordinary entrepreneurial skills and spirit, when he began to purchase real estate in The Bronx. Alongside his uncle, Rrustem Gecaj, they founded Bajraktari Realty and, in the following decades, expanded their business ventures throughout New York and Kosova.

Harry's entrepreneurial achievements had a major impact that extended well beyond the reach of the Bajraktari family. His accomplishments contributed to the revival in the Bronx and, in turn, made it possible for him to help an abundance of people in need. Bajraktari Realty's success created jobs and stimulated growth for other businesses around his properties, ranging from real estate, restaurants, and more. Once again, the Bajraktari family legacy brought real change to the lives of people in their community.

Though the family was experiencing success in their new home, they never forgot the people and the country they left behind. Their birthplace, Kosova, descended into dark times under the oppression of the Serbian strongman, Slobodan Milosevic. At the same time, and for over 50 years, Albania was under the iron fist of communist dictator, Enver Hoxha. The Bajraktari family answered the call to help their homeland and began to mobilize the people of Kosova and Albania.

Harry Bajraktari soon became an Albanian-American community leader and worked hard to educate politicians, diplomats, and experts on the issue of Kosova and Albania.

The Kosovar crisis was part of the larger Yugoslavian implosion, with genocide and massive war crimes ravaging the now-dissolved country. With waves of refugees and a spreading instability in southern Europe, it was clear that American leadership was desperately needed.

Fortunately, the cause for Kosovar independence found broad bipartisan support in Congress and throughout the country. With Harry's guidance, I helped found the bipartisan Albanian Issues Caucus more than 25 years ago. I'll never forget traveling to Kosova in 1996 with Harry and raising the American flag at the opening of the United States Information Agency office in Kosova's capital, Prishtina.

Through his efforts fighting for freedom in Kosova, Harry and many of his friends in the Albanian American community came to know and work closely with leaders in the Senate and House. Across the American political spectrum, Harry led his community in meetings with key leaders, including Senator Bob Dole, Vice President Biden, MITCH MCCONNELL, Alfonse D'Amato, Tom Lantos, Susan Molinari, and many others.

In his advocacy for independence in Kosova and democracy in Albania, Harry Bajraktari contributed to community organizations, wrote-ops, met with American and international officials, testified in the U.S. Congress and spoke at many rallies. In 1991, he founded Illyria, a modern and professional Albanian-American newspaper. Based in New York, it had subscribers throughout the United States and overseas. To this day, Illyria remains a voice for Albanian-Americans and continues to inform the community and the American people.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush issued what is known as the Christmas Warning to Milosevic, threatening military intervention if Serbia provoked a war in Kosova. In March 1999, after Belgrade's tanks rolled into Kosova, President Bill Clinton fulfilled that promise, and the United States led NATO in war against Yugoslavia. They stopped a humanitarian catastrophe and the ethnic cleansing of more than a million Albanians, and liberated Kosova.

This represented the end of the wars of Milosevic's Balkan wars and, one year later, he fell from power, ushering in a new era of relative peace and stability in the region. In 2008, Kosova became the newest independent country in Europe with the support and the recognition of the United States. It is now recognized by more than 110 nations.

Harry Bajraktari followed the example of other great Albanian-American leaders of the early 20th century like Bishop Fan Noli and Ambassador Faik Konitza, who worked to forge the special relationship and historic friendship between ethnic Albanians and the United States of America. He was also inspired by a great Albanian American leader in business and politics, Anthony Athanas, in Boston.

Harry and many others from such states as New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Illinois, Michigan and other states worked together and became instrumental in making the voice of Albanian Ameri-

cans heard in Washington. They founded the National Albanian American Council, which was the leading Albanian American organization in Washington, D.C. for many years.

Although Metë Bajraktari passed away in 1998 and did not live to see his dream of a free and independent Kosova come true, his family continues to remember him as they continue to fight for their homeland. Today, a major shopping center in Peja is dedicated to him, fifty years after he fled Belgrade's oppression. That shopping center stands strong in the heart of the city and I am honored that a street in my name borders that facility.

For his great work in support of Kosova's independence, advocacy for democracy in Albania, and human rights throughout the Balkans, Harry Bajraktari has been recognized with the highest medals and honors. These awards are high honors from the President of Kosova, the President of Albania and recognition from the White House. When the story of Kosova is finally told, let us always recall the commitment of Harry Bajraktari and his family.

Here in the United States, Harry Bajraktari is recognized for his support for humanitarian and community initiatives. He and his family are proud, patriotic, Americans with a deep gratitude for what their new home, the United States, has given to them, and, in exchange, their hard work and success has made New York and this country a better place to live.

When they arrived on these shores, the Bajraktaris were only six people. A seventh, the youngest sibling, Miftar, was born during that first year in America. Today, Harry Bajraktari is the proud father of four children and has eight grandchildren. His sister, Nurije (Bajraktari) Osmani has four children and three grandchildren. Litafete (Bajraktari) Gega has four children and one grandchild. Hateme (Bajraktari) Nezej has three children. Miftar Bajraktari has three children.

Metë and Ziza have passed away, but their memory lives with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The continued story of the Bajraktari family will live on as a singular example of achieving the American dream. And today, their vision has become a reality, and their promises have been fulfilled. Harry has told me on many occasions his family's journey to America and the opportunities afforded to them through this journey was worth their many sacrifices. These are the kind of stories and people that add depth and humanity to our country's rich heritage. And, for myself, I am proud to call Harry Bajraktari and his family close personal friends and to honor the 50th anniversary of their arrival in the United States.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF BRETT
MCVANNEL FOR HIS SERVICE IN
THE GAYLORD CITY POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Brett McVannel for his retirement as chief of the Gaylord City Police Department. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Brett has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Born and raised in Gaylord, Chief McVannel dedicated nearly 25 years of his life to the people of Michigan, serving in Kalkaska and Otsego County before becoming chief in Gaylord. During his tenure Brett thrived as a leader and communicator, working productively with other local leaders and forming a familial bond in the department he oversaw. His exceptional leadership skills are reflected in the excellence of the officers who have served under him and the trust placed in him by the people of Northern Michigan. Chief McVannel's constant dedication to the public good is commendable, and the impact of his work on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Chief Brett McVannel for his decades of service to the people of our state. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Brett all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
DANIEL SWAIM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Daniel Swaim for his exceptional service to the House CAO Office of Finance's Budget, Planning and Analysis (BPA) division.

Lt. Swaim was detailed to BPA during a vital period to coordinate the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget formulation process and assist with execution of the House's FY 2019 resources. His superior knowledge of the federal budgeting process, keen analytical skills, and work ethic enabled BPA to mitigate its temporary personnel gaps. Lt. Swaim's efforts facilitated better insight on available resources, led to optimal decision making on allocation of funds, and ultimately enabled timely delivery of a well justified FY 2020 House Budget.

Lt. Swaim's stellar professionalism and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Lt. Swaim for his dedication and service and wish him fair winds and following seas as he embarks on his next assignment as the Commanding Officer of USCG Cutter *Sturgeon Bay*.

HONORING RONALD DELLUMS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, we celebrate our colleague and friend Ronald Dellums at a time of historic polarization in Congress. It is a good time to remember the peace advocate who chaired the Armed Services Committee with such equanimity that he won the respect, even the friendship, of those who opposed every cause, of the many into which Ron poured his considerable talent.

I first came to admire Ron even before being elected to Congress from my work in the Free South Africa anti-apartheid movement. For 14 years, Ron did not relent until he freed his landmark bill for South Africa divestment, overcoming a presidential veto.

By the time I was elected to Congress, Ron had already been chair of the District of Columbia Committee for more than a decade. That committee is long gone, and nothing would have pleased Chairman Dellums more than its demise. But when freedom-loving Ron Dellums first came to Congress, he knew that if there had to be such a Committee, he wanted a seat on it. Just as Ron sought peace by serving on the Armed Service Committee, he sought to free D.C. from congressional control by serving on the D.C. Committee.

He joined the D.C. Committee during his very first term in Congress. Upon becoming chair of the Committee, Ron framed his service as “an advocate, not an overseer of District affairs.” No sooner had Ron gotten to Congress in 1975, in his very first term, long before I even thought about becoming a Member, he introduced the first D.C. statehood bill.

Ron would relish our progress today as we close in on enough votes for the D.C. statehood bill to pass in the House this term. We expect a vote soon in the Oversight and Reform Committee to send the bill to the House Floor. When that committee vote occurs, we will not be able to claim we are breaking new or historic ground. In 1987, more than 30 years ago, Chairman Ron Dellums proclaimed, “There should be no colonies in a democracy” and led the District Committee in a vote for statehood for the District of Columbia that passed in his Committee.

The American citizens who live in the nation’s capital will forever remember Ron Dellums, prescient warrior for equality and freedom—and well ahead of his time—a leader for statehood for the District of Columbia.

LORELEI DOMKE—CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP (CLS)

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lorelei Domke, a Cape Coral, FL resident and senior at New College of Florida studying Chinese language and culture, who was awarded the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program is merit-based and funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The scholarship program seeks to expand the number of Americans studying foreign languages for national security and economic prosperity by providing instruction abroad in fourteen key languages. Out of more than 5,500 student applications, Ms. Domke was among the 572 students to be selected.

I congratulate Lorelei on her selection for the Critical Language Scholarship and look forward to seeing the contributions she will make to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAPLE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Maintaining Appropriate Protections For Legal Entry (MAPLE) Act. This bill, which is included within the Responsibly Addressing the Marijuana Policy Gap Act (H.R. 1119), would exempt cannabis-use and/or participation in the cannabis industry as a disqualification for entry into the United States from a country that has ended its marijuana prohibition and would protect foreign nationals who participate in cannabis activity in states where it’s legal from deportation.

Our federal cannabis laws are outdated and out of touch. They also have negatively impacted countless lives. Congress cannot continue to be out of touch with a movement that a growing majority of Americans support. It’s time to end this senseless prohibition.

HONORING DR. HIRAM TAVAREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Hiram Tavarez from McAllen, Texas. Dr. Tavarez recently retired after dedicating his career to the health and prosperity of the people of South Texas. For the past 55 years, he has worked tirelessly to help people in the Rio Grande Valley lead healthy lives.

Dr. Tavarez earned his medical degree from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, and started his residency in internal medicine at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. In 1965, Dr. Tavarez finished his residency and joined his brothers, Marvin and Vicente, in McAllen where they began practicing medicine. There, they opened the Tavarez Medical Center which still serves our community today. In the early days of the Tavarez Medical Center, Hiram and his brothers frequently made house calls homes to administer treatment and care. Dr. Tavarez would continue to demonstrate his unwavering commitment to serving others throughout his career. His good deeds did not go unnoticed as he received several honors and awards for his commitment to his community and patients.

Dr. Tavarez’s dedication to helping others is matched by his staff’s loyalty and mission of service. The staff at the Tavarez Medical Center consistently praise Dr. Tavarez for his compassion and his kindness; sentiments echoed by his patients. For more than half a century, Dr. Tavarez has unfailingly ensured every patient receives the highest quality care possible. His past shines brightly with his good feats, and his retirement is well deserved.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Tavarez is a pillar of the community in South Texas and serves as an example to all of us. It is truly an honor to represent dedicated, selfless individuals like him.

OFFICER ANTHONY NERI

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anthony Neri, an officer with the Sanibel Police Department who passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019. Mr. Neri had served the Sanibel Police Department since 2012, and as an officer since 2015.

Prior to serving with the Police Department in Sanibel, Mr. Neri was a Revenue Officer with the U.S. Department of the Treasury for 30 years. He also served as a police officer in Union Township, New Jersey prior to moving to Southwest Florida.

Officer Neri was honored along with 18 other officers at the Lee County Fallen Officer Memorial Ceremony held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers, Florida.

I am grateful to Officer Neri for his service to our community, and my thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

OPINION PIECE BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL DAVID M. FRIEDMAN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following piece authored by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David M. Friedman in honor of the one-year anniversary of the U.S. embassy opening in Jerusalem:

A YEAR AFTER OPENING THE JERUSALEM EMBASSY: ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY

On May 14, 2018, the United States finally opened its embassy in Israel’s eternal capital, Jerusalem. In making the courageous decision to take this historic step, President Donald Trump not only fulfilled a 23-year-old mandate from the United States Congress but he also recognized a 3,000-year-old truth that Israel’s enemies have long sought to erase.

America has been fascinated by Jerusalem since the early days of our republic. In 1844, Warder Cresson, the first consul general, announced after his appointment by the secretary of state that the United States was thereby extending its protection to the Jews of Jerusalem. The first permanent consular presence opened just inside the Jaffa Gate in 1857, and diplomatic presence has remained constant in and around the Old City ever since. President Abraham Lincoln, just before his death, told his wife how he longed to visit Jerusalem. And President Ulysses Grant and Mark Twain both visited Jerusalem in the mid-19th century and wrote extensively about their experiences.

Neither Grant nor Twain were all that impressed with Jerusalem in those days. It was poor, inhospitable and undeveloped. The Old City of Jerusalem remained that way well into the 20th century, whether under the rule of the Ottoman Empire until 1917, the British Mandate until 1948, or the Kingdom of Jordan until 1967. In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as a single city under Israeli rule. Almost immediately, Jerusalem began to

bloom, to flourish and to become, for the first time in its history, a free city open to the worshipers of all three Abrahamic faiths. Many in the United States took notice and, in 1995, Congress, by overwhelming majority votes, passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act, recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and requiring the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all found reasons to avoid the implementation of this law. All in all, more than 40 presidential waivers were signed delaying the move of the Embassy. And then came President Trump.

Trump recognized the truth—that Jerusalem was, is and will always be the capital of Israel. He saw the dishonest and shameful efforts of UNESCO and the United Nations Security Council to deny Israel's biblical, historical and practical connection to Jerusalem. And he refused to pursue a foreign policy based upon anything short of the truth. President Trump, like other Republican and Democratic candidates before him, had promised during his campaign to move the Embassy. Unlike his predecessors, Trump kept his promise.

The United States Embassy in Jerusalem has now been open a full year. We have a beautiful campus in the Arnona suburb and magnificent facilities on Agron Street in downtown Jerusalem. Well more than 100 American diplomats come to work every day, working hand in hand with Israelis and Palestinians, and American and foreign tourists visit every day just to take a picture or say a prayer. Contrary to all the negative predictions, the Jerusalem embassy has been an extraordinary success, advancing peaceful coexistence, bilateral cooperation and cultural exchange between and among Israelis, Palestinians and Americans.

Most of all, the United States Embassy in Jerusalem stands for the truth—the bedrock of all successful policies. Moving our embassy places the United States firmly on the right side of history.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICH
MATSUDAIRA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Martin "Mich" Matsudaira. Mr. Matsudaira was a pillar for Asian American advocacy in Washington State. He dedicated his life to increasing awareness for the history and challenges of those in the Asian American community.

Mr. Matsudaira was an influential voice in Washington State. Serving as the first Director of The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)—he helped create one of the first and most successful commissions of its kind. His work with CAPAA has touched thousands of people's lives. From his advocacy on behalf of Vietnamese Refugees during the transition process after the Vietnam War, to leading the charge for the redress of Executive Order 9066 and Japanese Internment, Mr. Matsudaira was a champion for Asian-American rights and a political advocate.

Mr. Matsudaira personally understood the challenges that Asian-Americans face in our country. Growing up, he and his family spent three years in a Japanese internment camp.

After his service in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1960, he graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in economics and went to work for Boeing. He worked tirelessly to promote social justice throughout his career, and became a champion for diverse communities in Washington State. On top of his critical work in public service, he ran a small business called Mich's Mens' Shop, and raised four children. Mr. Matsudaira will be remembered for his groundbreaking efforts in civil rights, and his commitment to the community around him.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and humility that I recognize the life of Mich Matsudaira, a staple of the Seattle Community, and a leader in civic service.

ELLEN TAUSCHER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, Ellen Tauscher was tough, strategic and effective.

As we mourn the loss of our friend Ellen, we are reminded of not only of the deals that she forged here in the halls of Congress, but also the continued treaties that she established between nations.

As we have heard many of my colleagues stress today, Ellen stands out because she created success and opportunity in rare, tough situations.

I knew Ellen could always bring all sides to the table.

Ellen's work at the highest levels of government have roots in her remarkable career prior to politics—being a trailblazing member of the New York Stock Exchange and founding the ChildCare Registry in Northern California.

Her bold leadership style created an environment of confidence and trust.

On a personal level, I remember the fun times we had together talking and sharing the adventures—highs and lows of our kids.

Today and as we move forward, I know the world is safer because of Ellen Tauscher's leadership in the State Department and Armed Services Committee. We will all miss her courage, her thoughtfulness, and her humanity

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
WEEK 2019

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise during National Law Enforcement Week 2019 to honor the valiant men and women who protect and serve the city of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The Haverhill Police Department consists of outstanding public servants who devote their lives to keeping the citizens of the city safe, while improving the lives of countless individuals.

Like most Americans each day, they get up, say goodbye to their loved ones, and head to work. But their work, and the work of police officers around the country, is like no other. From the moment they put on their uniform

they have answered a call that at any moment may put their lives in harm's way.

I thank the Haverhill Police Department for their continued and unwavering service and wish them well in their careers and future endeavors to come.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the Officers of the Haverhill Massachusetts Police Department.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith for his leadership and tremendous contributions to the civil rights movement, and to honor his memory.

Born on July 4th, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan—a fitting birth date for a man who upheld the rights so cherished by our nation—Damon Keith was the youngest of six children born to Annie and Perry Alexander, a Ford factory worker. Keith was a proud graduate of the Detroit Public School System, graduating with honors from Northwestern High School in 1939. Keith was the first of his family to attend college and from there he went on to serve in the military before graduating from Howard University Law School in 1949. Judge Keith returned to Detroit to begin his legal career, earning an LL.M. from Wayne State University.

Damon Keith worked in his own private law practice until 1967 when he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Keith served as Chief Judge from 1975 to 1977 before he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Keith's career is distinguished by his tireless defense of the U.S. Constitution. He decided several important cases that advanced civil rights in the State of Michigan. His legacy in the civil rights movement includes deciding cases against segregating schools, employment and housing discrimination, and federal wiretapping policies. Key among these cases are a 1970 decision ordering desegregation of Pontiac schools, a 1971 ruling that Nixon and AG Mitchell violated the federal constitution by wiretapping students in Ann Arbor, and lastly a 2002 ruling that deportation hearings held in private are unconstitutional—an opinion in which he famously wrote, "Democracies die behind closed doors." He was also instrumental in upholding the rights of local workers across the state. In 1973, Judge Keith ordered Detroit Edison to pay \$4 million to black employees who were victims of job discrimination and ordered the company to create an affirmative action program. He also ordered the union to pay \$250,000 for failing to protect their workers from discrimination. His tireless work and fight to advance the quality of life for all people are memories and values we will forever cherish and continue to uphold.

It is a great privilege to recognize a gentleman who contributed so much of his life to fight for human rights and civil equality for human beings. This is in recognition of a great

loss to our state and a tribute to Judge Keith's surviving family as we honor his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO NCSU ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR DEBBIE YOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Debbie Yow, Athletic Director at North Carolina State University (NCSU), who is retiring this month. Dr. Yow joined the Wolfpack in 2010 with the responsibility of leading the athletics department of the largest university in North Carolina. In her eight-year tenure, Dr. Yow has worked to make NCSU's athletics department one of the best in the nation—both in the classroom and in competition.

Dr. Yow's tenure as the athletic director has been marked by the unprecedented academic success of NCSU's student-athletes. This past year, an all-time high of 59 NCSU student-athletes were named academic All-Americans. Overall, the students reached a record graduation rate. Under Dr. Yow's tenure, the Wolfpack also made remarkable improvements in competition. In the last three years, an aver-

age of 79 students were named competitive All-Americans, an all-time high for NCSU student-athletes. From 2010–12, the school made the biggest single jump of any Atlantic Coast Conference school in history, improving from No. 89 to No. 37 in NACDA rankings.

Dr. Yow has received numerous accolades for her outstanding leadership. The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics recently selected her as the 2018–19 Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year and named her the 2019 James J. Corbett Memorial Award Recipient, which is the highest honor one can achieve in collegiate athletics administration. Both *Street and Smith's Sports Business Journal* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* have cited Dr. Yow as one of the 20 most influential people in college athletics. Additionally, she was selected to serve on the President's U.S. Department of Education Commission on Opportunities in Athletics, to review the status of Federal Title IX regulations, and was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Prior to serving as athletic director at NCSU, Dr. Yow served as athletic director at University of Maryland, where she was the first female athletic director in the ACC. Before becoming an administrator, she served as the women's basketball coach at University of Kentucky, Oral Roberts University, and the

University of Florida. Yow also served as a high school coach at Williams High (Burlington, NC) and Eastern Guilford High (Gibsonville, NC). She received a bachelor's degree from Elon University and a master's degree from Liberty University. Yow also has been awarded honorary doctorates from Elon, Liberty and the United States Sports Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Debbie Yow for her outstanding contributions to NC State University and to thousands of student athletes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes on Thursday, May 9th and Friday, May 10th.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 195; YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; YEA on Roll Call No. 198; YEA on Roll Call No. 199; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; NAY on Roll Call No. 201; and YEA on Roll Call No. 202.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2797–S2843

Measures Introduced: Thirty-three bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1438–1470, S.J. Res. 21–26, and S. Res. 205–210.

Pages S2814–16

Measures Passed:

National Police Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 209, designating the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as “National Police Week”. **Page S2837**

National Senior Fraud Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 210, supporting the designation of May 15, 2019, as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day” to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent schemes targeting seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those schemes, and to improve protections from those schemes for seniors.

Page S2837

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program: Senate passed S. 1231, to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Page S2837**

Lee Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S2799–S2802, S2802–06**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 109), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2800**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S2800**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. **Pages S2837–38**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 108), Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Pages S2797–99, S2843

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for the remainder of the term expiring January 3, 2021.

John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Monica David Morris, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

Page S2843

Messages from the House:

Page S2811

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2811, S2837**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2811–12**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S2812–14**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2814**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2816–19**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2819–36**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2810–11**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2836–37**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2837**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—109) **Pages S2799–S2800**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:20 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S2837–38.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of

Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary for Food Safety, Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, all of the Department of Agriculture.

BUDGET AND SPENDING PROCESS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine fixing a broken budget and spending process, focusing on the perspectives of two former Chairmen, after receiving testimony from former Senators Judd Gregg and Kent Conrad.

THE EMERGING SPACE ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation and Space concluded a hearing to examine the emerging space environment, focusing on operational, technical, and policy challenges, after receiving testimony from James F. Bridenstine, Administrator, and Pamela A. Melroy, Astronaut (Ret.), both of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Kevin M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Space Commerce, Department of Commerce; Lieutenant General David D. Thompson, Vice Commander, Air Force Space Command, Department of Defense; and Robert Cardillo, former Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Alexandria, Virginia.

ACHIEVING MINERAL SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the importance of and path to achieving mineral security, including S. 1052, to authorize the Office of Fossil Energy to develop advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and minerals from coal and coal byproducts, and S. 1317, to facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national material or critical mineral needs, after receiving testimony from Joseph Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; David Solan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Power, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; Jonathan Evans, Lithium Americas, Reno, Nevada; John Warner, American Battery Solutions, Holly, Michigan, on behalf of the National Alliance for Advanced Technology Batteries; and Paul F. Ziemkiewicz, West Virginia University Water Research Institute, Morgantown.

PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 242, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to release reversionary

and reserved interests in certain land in the Coconino National Forest in the State of Arizona, S. 258, to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, S. 434, to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, S. 490, to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge", S. 499, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, S. 526, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development, S. 1079, to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, and S. 1262, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, after receiving testimony from Senators Braun and Udall; Frank R. Beum, Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Michael Nedd, Deputy Director for Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM CHALLENGES

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine challenges in the retirement system, after receiving testimony from Tobias Read, Oregon State Treasurer, Salem; Joni Tibbetts, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa; and Joan Ruff, AARP, and Lynn D. Dudley, American Benefits Council, both of Washington, D.C.

5G

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine 5G, focusing on national security concerns, intellectual property issues, and the impact on competition and innovation, after receiving testimony from Christopher Krebs, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Robert L. Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; James Andrew Lewis, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Peter Harrell, Center for a New American Security,

both of Washington, D.C.; and Charles Clancy, Virginia Tech Hume Center for National Security and Technology, Arlington, Virginia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, “Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) for Fiscal Year 2020”.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 48 public bills, H.R. 2689–2736; 2 private bills, H.R. 2737–2738; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 38; and H. Res. 378–382 were introduced. **Pages H3787–90**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3791–93**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: Committee on Appropriations. Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 (H. Rept. 116–59);

H.R. 389, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay rewards under an asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures in the United States and abroad, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–60); and

H. Res. 377, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 312) to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 987) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities (H. Rept. 116–61). **Page H3787**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Raskin to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3731**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Pages H3732–41**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H3743**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019: H.R. 299, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the

vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 410 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 203; **Pages H3743–51, H3771**

Reauthorizing the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program: H.R. 2379, amended, to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 400 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 204; **Pages H3751–55, H3771–72**

First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act: H.R. 1594, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards;

Pages H3755–56

Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act: H.R. 1313, amended, to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants;

Pages H3756–58

Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2019: H.R. 1437, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security;

Pages H3758–59

DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019: H.R. 1912, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs;

Pages H3759–61

DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2019: H.R. 2066, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security;

Pages H3762–63

National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019: H.R. 2578, to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; **Pages H3763–64**

Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act: H.R. 389, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay rewards under an asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures in the United States and abroad; **Pages H3764–67**

Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act: H.R. 1060, amended, to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance; and **Pages H3767–69**

Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2019: H.R. 1037, to increase transparency with respect to financial services benefitting state sponsors of terrorism, human rights abusers, and corrupt officials. **Pages H3769–70**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3771**

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the Congressional Record and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks. **Page H3772**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2019: H.R. 1892, To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews. **Pages H3761–62**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to Yemen is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2019—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–34). **Page H3742**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3771 and H3771–72. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EQUALITY ACT; MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT; MARKETING AND OUTREACH RESTORATION TO EMPOWER HEALTH EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”; H.R. 312, the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act”; and H.R. 987, the “Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019” [Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”, H.R. 312, the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act”, and H.R. 987, the “Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act”. Section 1 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 2 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 312, the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 3 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 987, the “Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides 90 minutes of general debate with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on

Energy and Commerce and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–14 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Grijalva, Chairman Nadler, Chairman Pallone, and Representatives Collins of Georgia, Gohmert, Lesko, Hartzler, King of Iowa, Bucshon, Carter of Georgia, and Burgess.

COMPARTMENTED FY 2020 BUDGET REQUEST

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Compartmented FY 2020 Budget Request”. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Agriculture Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine an intelligence program update and global threat assessment, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 737, to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood, S. 1228, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, S. 1289, to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, S. 1294, to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment, and an original bill entitled, “Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act for Fiscal Year 2020”; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine issues and challenges at the Power Marketing Administrations, 3 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Council on Environmental Quality, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the future of arms control post-Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 411, to establish a Counterterrorism Advisory Board, S. 1275, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, S. 580, to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, S. 347, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the “Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building”, S. 1196, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”, S. Con. Res. 15, expressing support for the designation of October 28, 2019, as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”, H.R. 995, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, H.R. 1079, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, H.R. 1608, to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, H.R. 1654, to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, H.R. 1590, to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, H.R. 540, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Ayrault Road in Fairport, New York, as the “Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office”, H.R. 828, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25

Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”, H.R. 829, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”, an original bill entitled, “Improve Data on Sexual Violence Act”, an original bill entitled, “Repeal Insurance Plans of the Multi-State Program Act”, an original bill entitled, “Supply Chain Counterintelligence Training Act of 2019”, an original bill entitled, “Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act of 2019”, an original bill entitled, “Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019”, an original bill entitled, “Early Participation in Regulations Act of 2019”, an original bill entitled, “Stopping Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”, an original bill entitled, “Setting Manageable Analysis Requirements in Text Act of 2019”, and the nominations of James A. Crowell IV, and Jason Park, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Ron A. Bloom, of New York, and Roman Martinez IV, of Florida, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 279, to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, S. 832, to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865, and S. 1207, to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in Utah; to be immediately following by an oversight hearing to examine the President’s fiscal year 2020 budget request for Indian Programs, and S. 1211, to provide for improvements to Tribal transportation facilities and Tribal transportation safety, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Election Assistance Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR-301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration’s innovation programs, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled “To Review USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, markup on the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, markup on the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 12 p.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, markup on the Interior, Environment, and Re-

lated Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 2 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Keeping Our Promise to America’s Seniors: Retirement Security in the 21st Century”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled “Examining the Older Americans Act: Promoting Independence and Dignity for Older Americans”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Protecting Americans at Risk of PFAS Contamination and Exposure”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Promoting Economic Growth: A Review of Proposals to Strengthen the Rights and Protections for Workers”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Assessing the Use of Sanctions in Addressing National Security and Foreign Policy Challenges”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled “The Conflict in Libya”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 542, the “Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act”; H.R. 1158, the “DHS Cyber Incident Response Team Act”; H.R. 2083, the “Homeland Procurement Reform Act”; H.R. 2383, the “Secure Communities and Safe Schools Act”; H.R. 2476, the “Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act”; H.R. 2539, the “Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2019”; H.R. 2589, the “Unifying DHS Intelligence Enterprise Act”; H.R. 2590, the “DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019”; H.R. 2609, the “DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2019”; and H.R. 2621, the “Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists’ Use of Ghost Guns Act”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Executive Privilege and Congressional Oversight”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Department of the Interior Budget and Policy Priorities for FY 2020”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing entitled “Examining the Impacts of Climate Change on Public Lands Recreation”, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 2532, the “Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “DOD Inspector General Report on Excess Profits by TransDigm Group, Inc.”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Confronting White Supremacy (Part I): The Consequences of Inaction”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Advancing the Next Generation of Solar and Wind Energy Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing: Committee on Small Business”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Status of the Boeing 737 MAX”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Examining Mid-Semester School Closures Impact on Student Veterans”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Economic and Health Consequences of Climate Change”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post-cloture.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 312—Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act (Subject to a Rule).

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