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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Send Your spirit of peace and calm, that all might have confidence in Your faithfulness to us, and that no matter what lies ahead, Your grace is abundantly available.

Now we approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HOUSE DEMOCRATS WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the tremendous progress House Democrats have made to get government working for the people.

In less than a year, we have passed nearly 400 pieces of legislation, including more than 275 bipartisan bills that are currently sitting on MITCH MCCONNELL's desk.

We passed legislation to protect coverage for preexisting conditions, to build on the progress of the ACA, and to drive down the cost of prescription drugs.

We fought to get hardworking folks the good-paying jobs they need to put food on the table by passing legislation to raise the minimum wage; to ensure equal pay for equal work; and to invest more than \$70 billion in green, job-creating infrastructure projects.

We fought to clean up corruption in Washington by passing the most comprehensive anticorruption bill since Watergate.

Yet MITCH MCCONNELL would rather tout himself as the grim reaper than vote on these bills that will help his constituents and the American people.

I have a message for you, Senator MCCONNELL: Do your job, or your constituents will pick someone who will.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY HAS NO FACTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, we are now in week 2 of the "public phase" of Speaker PELOSI's and Chairman SCHIFF's impeachment inquiry.

What comes to mind is a song from 1980 by REO Speedwagon. I am not going to do this any justice, but here it is: "I heard it from a friend who heard it from a friend who heard it from another . . ."

That is the evidence that has been presented in private and in public: no substance. In fact, Mr. Morrison and Ambassador Volker, both of whom claimed to have firsthand knowledge, testified they witnessed no bribery, no quid pro quos, and no illegal actions by President Trump.

Yesterday, Ambassador Sondland said: "I never heard from President Trump that aid was conditioned on an announcement" of investigations.

Here is what it is: We are talking about innuendos, thoughts, and feelings, but no facts. That is what is happening. That is what has happened in the SCIF when it was rehearsed, and that is what is happening in the public performance this past couple of weeks.

DELAY MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the advanced manufacturing that is happening in New York's medical device industry.

Medical device companies across New York employ nearly 20,000 people, paying good wages, helping patients live healthier lives, and making products here in the United States.

Companies like Welch Allyn and ConMed are expanding manufacturing

□ 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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in upstate New York and creating hundreds of new jobs. But this growth could be hurt if we see the return of the medical device tax.

The current suspension of the device tax expires on December 31. Allowing this tax to return could erode gains in employment in the med-tech sector from the last 4 years, ultimately hurting innovation and patient access to new technology.

Madam Speaker, I hope we can work together this year as Democrats and Republicans to delay this tax and keep supporting American manufacturing.

SUPPORT SERVICE ORGANIZATION CAUCUS

(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. Madam Speaker, service plays an important role in communities across the Nation. From small acts of kindness to grand gestures, we can all do our part to make a difference. It is something I am personally passionate about, having served as a volunteer firefighter for many years and being involved in scouting my entire life.

Nobody embodies this mission better than the countless volunteers and service organizations that can be found nationwide. That is why I am honored to co-chair the Congressional Service Organization Caucus with my colleague, Congressman PANETTA from California.

The Congressional Service Organization Caucus is a group of Members who not only support their local volunteer service organizations but share a mutual admiration for community service and humanitarian assistance.

The spirit of service is something that both Republicans and Democrats can come together to champion. That is why Congressman PANETTA and I are asking for the support of our colleagues in joining this caucus and upholding our support for these organizations and the communities that they serve.

GIVE VETERANS HEALTH COVERAGE FOR AGENT ORANGE CONDITIONS

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak directly to White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney.

Recent reports suggest you personally intervened to stop Vietnam vets from getting healthcare, all just to save a buck.

It sounds crazy, and it is. Thousands of veterans were affected by exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war and deserve to have healthcare.

The VA Secretary tried to add four medical conditions caused by Agent Orange to the list VA would cover, but Mick Mulvaney intervened to stop it.

This issue is personal for me. My grandfather served in Vietnam, was exposed to Agent Orange, and died from lung cancer. Sadly, his story is not uncommon.

I refuse to stand by and let other veterans die because they didn't get the healthcare they need. That is not who we are.

Our veterans fought to keep us safe, and many sacrificed life and limb. The last thing they should have to do is come home to fight another battle for the healthcare they earned.

There is still time to turn this around, Mick, and I beg you to reconsider.

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

PRIORITIZE TREATMENT FOR ALS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with patient access to groundbreaking and lifesaving ALS treatments. This is a very personal issue to me as some of my close friends and neighbors have been affected by this difficult disease.

I applaud the enactment of the Right to Try Act, allowing some people another option to receive the treatments they need. However, this should not be the end of the conversation.

It is important to acknowledge that the passage of this act has not opened all the doors we expected, and many are still denied access to treatments.

The FDA's lengthy approval process continues to limit patient access, at times forcing my constituents to spend large sums of money traveling overseas for treatment or, more commonly, forfeiting treatment altogether.

The use of stem cells to treat ALS, widely used and deemed safe in other countries, has been studied in the U.S. for over 12 years but has yet to be approved, despite its fast-tracked status.

Delaying approval of this treatment, commonly known as NurOwn, is putting lives at risk. I urge the FDA to prioritize its approval and give access to thousands of ALS patients.

INCREASE FEDERAL USE OF GREEN ENERGY

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government is the Nation's largest purchaser of electricity, yet it buys renewable energy at a rate that is far less than the rest of the country.

With a climate crisis threatening our planet and our way of life, this is not acceptable. We can and must leverage the resources of the Federal Government to accelerate the technological innovation needed to transition to a green and clean economy.

That is why, earlier this week, I introduced the Green Energy for Federal Buildings Act. My legislation would require the Federal Government to increase the share of electricity it gets from renewable sources.

Under current law, the Federal Government is required to utilize only 7.5 percent renewable energy for its electricity needs. My bill would up the ante, raising the requirement to 35 percent by 2030, 75 percent by 2040, and 100 percent by 2050.

This crisis is upon us. We must have the strength and the foresight to act decisively, creatively, and boldly. There is no time to waste.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 78th anniversary of National Bible Week.

In this very Bible, the Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy, Chapter 4:

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but have itching ears, they will accumulate themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and will wander off into myths.

Even as I look behind me at the words "In God We Trust," I wonder if we as a nation are succumbing to what the Apostle Paul warned about 2,000 years ago.

There is a solution to this problem, and it is found in the very same chapter. Paul writes:

Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

He writes in the prior chapter, 2 Timothy, Chapter 3, that all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, and that a person of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

So we see the people of His creation are intended for purposeful good works, and we are guided into that purpose by God through the very Scriptures that we celebrate this week.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today on National Rural Health Day to bring attention to the importance of healthcare in rural communities across this country and in New Hampshire.

Far too often, there are substantial health disparities for those living in rural America. Our rural communities face growing and unique healthcare challenges exacerbated by distance and the time it takes to see a provider.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act. This legislation would create rural maternal network grant programs and ensure maternal health providers are eligible for telehealth.

This is especially impactful for Granite State families that face long distances and deal with extreme workforce shortages that make it difficult to access much-needed care. For them, having access to telehealth for maternal care is a real life-changer.

We must all continue to support and lift up the innovation, quality, and service of rural healthcare providers and facilities.

RECOGNIZING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two important events in November: Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and National Adoption Month.

Pulmonary hypertension was first brought to my attention by my dear friend Jack Stibbs, whose daughter, Emily, had PH. Because of her early diagnosis and his terrific leadership, Emily has been able to lead a relatively normal life and recently graduated from college and married. However, not all patients are as fortunate as she.

That is why the work of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association is so important. Their efforts to increase awareness and research across Federal agencies are making a huge difference in lives across the Nation. I am proud to represent the PHA Lone Star Chapter in The Woodlands, Texas.

November is also National Adoption Month. This is a cause I hold close to my heart because it is thanks to the miracle of adoption that I have my incredible family today.

During this month, we recognize and thank the adoptive parents, dedicated professionals, and the faith-based organizations that work tirelessly to provide our Nation's children with love and support.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in raising awareness and saying thanks to these two great causes.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1309.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY of California). Is there ob-

jection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 713 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1309.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1309) 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, with Ms. JACKSON LEE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, today's vote on H.R. 1309 is an important milestone in what has been a 7-year process of getting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to effectively act to protect the healthcare and social service workforce from skyrocketing rates of violence.

Sadly, in America today, nurses, doctors, social workers, EMTs, and nursing assistants are more likely to be the victim of on-the-job violence than any other sector of our Nation's workforce.

This violence comes in the form of assaults, kicking, hitting, choking, and spitting from patients and residents and clients or those who may accompany them. It affects a worker's sense of safety at work. It contributes to burnout, absenteeism, high workers' compensation costs, and stress. Tragically, it can also lead to death.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social service workers are more than five times as likely to suffer a serious injury from workplace violence than workers in other settings. And this chart, which shows the red line of healthcare workers versus other sectors in the U.S. economy vividly, powerfully demonstrates the data that is coming into the Department of Labor on this issue.

In psychiatric hospitals, that number is drastically higher. In a recent survey, nearly 50 percent of emergency room physicians report having been physically assaulted at work, and 60 percent of those who have these occurrences said they happened in the past year.

As this graph shows, these numbers are on the rise. The incidents of violence in the workplace have increased 80 percent over the last decade.

Since OSHA has not effectively addressed this emergency, this bill is necessary to ensure that a standard is issued and enforced in a reasonable period of time.

Using past precedent, the bill calls for an interim final standard within 1 year and a final standard within 42 months. The public comment and rule-making process is preserved in the development of the final standard.

Very simply, the standard required by the bill would require that covered employers, such as hospitals and psychiatric facilities, develop a workplace violence prevention plan that is tailored to the specific conditions and hazards present at each workplace. It is not a one-size-fits-all requirement.

Madam Chair, developing a plan is not rocket science. For over 20 years, OSHA has published voluntary guidelines on violence prevention that include commonsense measures, such as training staff about how to identify high-risk patients, share the information with coworkers, not be alone, and ways to de-escalate threats. We know from the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation that these measures work, and the problem is, though, that there is no consistent enforceable standard to ensure their application, and that is precisely what this bill does.

While we will never eliminate all risk or stop every violent attack, research on the measures in this legislation have been shown to substantially cut the incidence of serious injury from workplace violence. The nurses, doctors, social workers, and EMTs who care for us in our times of crisis and need deserve to have these protections soon, not in 7 years and not in 20 years, as is likely if we fail to pass this legislation into law, leaving OSHA rule-making to its own dilatory, almost comatose, devices.

I would like to thank the large coalition of healthcare professionals, their organizations, and union representation who have diligently fought for these protections for years; the subcommittee chair, ALMA ADAMS, of the Workforce Subcommittee on Education and Labor and Chairman BOBBY SCOTT for their leadership; also, Richard Miller and Jordan Barab, our committee staff, who have done amazing work, as well as Maria Costigan from my personal office, who have just worked night and day for years to try and get us to this point.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2019.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I write concerning H.R. 1309, the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act," which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1309, the Committee on Energy and Commerce agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter in the report on the bill and into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1309.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2019.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: In reference to your letter of September 6, 2019, I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1309, the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act."

I appreciate the Committee on Energy and Commerce's waiver of consideration of H.R. 1309 as specified in your letter. I acknowledge that the waiver was granted only to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 1309 and does not in any way waive or diminish the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this or similar legislation.

I would be pleased to include our exchange of letters on this matter in committee report for H.R. 1309 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill to memorialize our joint understanding.

Again, thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,
Chairman.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

American workers deserve to be kept out of harm's way while on the job, allowing them to return home to their families and loved ones healthy and safe.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social service workplaces experience the highest

rate of workplace violence, totaling 71 percent of all workplace violence injuries in 2017, and these workers are more than four times as likely to suffer a workplace violence injury.

There is no question that these caregivers deserve meaningful and effective protections, but H.R. 1309 is shortsighted and partisan, and it fails to address the important issue in an effective, feasible manner.

In the Education and Labor Committee's single hearing on this issue back in February, Members on both sides of the aisle expressed a desire to work together to produce real policy solutions.

Committee Republicans believe there can be a bipartisan response to this issue that would aid in the rulemaking process and provide protection to healthcare and social service workers.

Instead, committee Democrats have decided to advance legislation that circumvents the long-established rulemaking process and blocks valuable input from workers and other stakeholders who know better than we do how to prevent workplace violence in these unique circumstances.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, the Federal agency that helps ensure safe and healthful working conditions, is currently working on a workplace violence prevention rule for healthcare and social assistance workplaces, which includes gathering important stakeholder input to create the most feasible and effective Federal safety and health standards possible.

However, by requiring OSHA to circumvent established rulemaking procedures under the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, H.R. 1309 would undermine and threaten this ongoing collaborative and evidence-based process by denying OSHA the ability to be responsive to important feedback from the public and impacted stakeholders.

H.R. 1309 severely limits the participation of industry, worker representatives, the scientific community, and the public from having a say in the development of a new comprehensive standard. Democrats are rejecting a thorough response to this complex and highly technical issue that is backed by meaningful input.

Furthermore, this legislation turns a blind eye to comprehensive research and data. Currently, there is no agreed-upon set of policies to prevent and mitigate workplace violence for healthcare and social service workers, and researchers in the field have pointed out the need for additional studies to determine the most effective response.

In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said further research was needed to identify effective strategies that prevent workplace violence in healthcare and social service settings.

Additionally, in 2016, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, noted there have been a limited num-

ber of studies done on the effectiveness of workplace violence prevention programs, and GAO chose not to call on OSHA to establish a standard without further study.

Continuing with their record of rushed and haphazard legislation, Democrats are pushing a false sense of urgency with H.R. 1309. This bill wrongly implies that Congress should impose a swift and sweeping standard immediately, ignoring that OSHA is already enforcing workplace violence prevention. In 2019, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission upheld penalties issued by OSHA under the general duty clause against healthcare facilities for not adequately addressing workplace violence.

I will remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that, according to a 2018 American Hospital Association survey, 97 percent of respondents indicated they already have workplace violence policies in place.

To make matters even worse, H.R. 1309 mandates yet another costly and burdensome regulation. Simply put, financially struggling healthcare facilities such as rural hospitals and small businesses cannot afford another costly, congressionally imposed mandate from Washington.

Democrats will argue they didn't intend for the bill to have such a large scope and to cost so much. What else didn't they intend to happen when they rushed through this process, forcing an overly prescriptive mandate on the public?

Madam Chair, Republicans are committed to ensuring that healthcare and social service workers are protected from workplace violence. There is bipartisan support for OSHA's current efforts to create a standard on workplace violence prevention. However, Congress should aid in the rulemaking process, not circumvent it, as H.R. 1309 does.

H.R. 1309 will likely have many unintended consequences which negatively impact healthcare and social services workplaces, in addition to imposing a costly mandate on healthcare providers. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this unnecessary legislation so we can get to work on a bipartisan solution.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just note that this is a bipartisan effort. There are 227 cosponsors in the House, 8 Republicans. And again, we have had lots of engagement, accommodated a number of the issues that came up at the public hearing process.

Again, I would just note that I appreciate the fact that the ranking member spoke highly of OSHA's volunteer guidelines, which I have in my hand here. Those are actually incorporated into the bill language for the interim final standard. So we are working exactly with the guidelines that she endorsed.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), an early advocate of this measure.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for his tireless, bipartisan leadership in shepherding this bill to this historic point. It was my honor to work on the healthcare worker portions of this bill, and I am proud that it will pass today.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

For far too long, the workers who serve on the front lines of our communities have had to work in dangerous conditions without adequate protection. Every day, our nurses and social service workers face high levels of dangers, levels that most of us would find unacceptable in our own occupation. Their courage to keep working, despite these risks of violence, exemplifies the selfless nature of healthcare.

□ 0930

This bill follows what California has done in creating a nationwide workplace violence prevention standard, so people no longer have to work in fear.

Since the implementation of California's own standard, healthcare workers have experienced marked improvements in workplace violence prevention measures. The California Nurses Association reports that hospitals in California are seeing increased security staffing, increased training, and comprehensive reporting. These common-sense protections did not exist prior to California's standard.

It is time to expand these protections to healthcare and social service workers nationwide. This affects real people. We have heard stories of people who have been injured, killed, whose families have been harmed because of this kind of violence.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from National Nurses United in support of this legislation. National Nurses United has boldly led on this issue for many years, including getting the standards across the finish line in California.

NATIONAL NURSES UNITED,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: This week, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, sponsored by Congressman Joe Courtney. National Nurses United, representing more than 155,000 registered nurses (RNs) across the country, is firmly in support of this bill and strongly urges you to vote in favor of it.

Our members work at the bedside in every state in the nation, and we know that when nurses are unsafe, our patients are also at risk. Violence on the job has become endemic for RNs and other workers in healthcare and social assistance settings. Nurses report being punched, kicked, bitten, beaten, and threatened with violence as they provide care to others—and far too many have experienced stabbings and shootings. But there are practical steps that healthcare

and social service employers can take to fulfill their obligations to protect their employees from this serious occupational hazard. We know that violence can be prevented through the development and implementation of plans that are tailored to specific patient care units and facilities. These plans must assess and address the range of risks for violence—from the sufficiency of staffing and security systems to patient-specific risk factors.

H.R. 1309 mandates that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration promulgate a workplace violence prevention standard that would require healthcare and social service employers to develop and enforce plans to protect their employees from violence on the job. To ensure that workplace violence prevention plans are effective, workers (including nurses, other direct care employees, security personnel and ancillary staff) must be involved throughout all stages of plan development, implementation, and review, which go hand-in-hand with the standard's comprehensive training requirements. The enforceable occupational health and safety standard established in this legislation is necessary to create and maintain protections against workplace violence that our members, other workers in healthcare and social settings, and, importantly, our patients deserve.

This bi-partisan legislation is of high priority for RNs across the country, and we hope you will join with us in supporting it and voting yes on H.R. 1309 on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

BONNIE CASTILLO, RN,

Executive Director.

ZENI CORTEZ, RN,

President.

DEBORAH BURGER, RN,

President.

JEAN ROSS, RN,

President.

Mr. KHANNA. I want to thank, again, the gentleman from Connecticut for his leadership.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Chair, those who work in hospitals and in social services are remarkable. They provide Americans with compassion and care in some of life's most difficult situations. But every day these workers face real risk of workplace violence.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports healthcare and social service workplaces have higher rates of workplace violence. No American should feel threatened while on the job. That is why the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, has recently taken steps to work with stakeholders and industry partners to analyze the issue on how to best protect these workers.

H.R. 1309 threatens this collaborative work and denies OSHA the ability to respond to feedback from the public and stakeholders.

As a small business owner, I know that top-down mandates simply do not work. The bottom-up approach is the tried-and-true method. Gather input from all impacted before creating a new policy.

This bill also lacks the research needed to identify and prevent workplace violence in these settings. In 2016,

the Government Accountability Office said there haven't been enough studies done on the effectiveness of workplace violence prevention programs and that OSHA needed to review it further. Why do some of my colleagues think they know better than the industry, worker representatives, the scientific community, and the public?

Let's also not forget that rushed mandates like this one come at a cost. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost to private entities will be at least \$1.8 billion in the first 2 years that the rushed OSHA rule is in effect and \$750 million annually after that. It is also estimated to cost public facilities at least \$100 million in the first 2 years and \$55 million annually after that.

When I am back home in my district and talk to healthcare providers, the last thing they want is another costly government mandate from Washington. So let's not put the cart before the horse here.

Workplace violence is a serious issue, and it needs a serious solution. We should not pass this bill until we have a thoroughly vetted and researched fix. So let OSHA do their job to develop an effective solution by working with the very people that we are trying to help.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, again very quickly, the mandate costs that CBO scored, the \$1.7 billion, that is spread out over 200,000 facilities, if you read their note closely. If you do the math, we are talking about a \$9,000 cost per year for facilities. That, in my opinion, in terms of protecting their workforce, is not a high price to pay to make sure that the people who work there are safe.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, and I want to thank her for moving this bill this calendar year.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding. I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Workplace violence impacts over 15 million healthcare workers in this country. These workers offer critical assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our society. They work in our hospitals, our nursing homes, our hospices, and they do this, despite the fact that they are nearly five times as likely to suffer serious workplace violence injury than workers in other sectors.

And those statistics account just for physical injuries. So when the body recovers from workplace assaults, these professionals are often plagued with career-ending post-traumatic stress disorders for the rest of their lives.

So I am glad that the House is considering the gentleman from Connecticut's bill today to finally compel OSHA

to create a standard to protect these workers in their places of work.

Madam Chair, it can take up to 20 years for OSHA to issue standards, as in the case of its silica and beryllium standards. Our Nation's healthcare and social service workers cannot afford to wait that long while they serve under the constant threat of violence.

H.R. 1309 takes a different approach. It would require OSHA to issue an interim standard requiring employers to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan within 1 year and a final standard within 42 months. Contrary to the claims of my friends on the other side of the aisle, this is not a radical requirement.

OSHA has already held extensive public comment on this topic since 1996, and H.R. 1309 would allow OSHA to conduct a full public comment and hearing process before a final standard is issued. Our healthcare and social service workers cannot wait, and neither can we.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a support letter from organizations representing our Nation's healthcare and social service workers, as well as a support letter from AFL-CIO.

NOVEMBER 20, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing nurses, social workers, psychiatric, home health and personal care aides, as well as other workers in the healthcare and social service industries, we urge you to vote yes on H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. When healthcare and social service professionals show up to work, they shouldn't have to worry about whether they are going to be injured in an assault. The many professionals who face risk of assault every day include not only those working in hospitals, clinics and mental health facilities, but also those providing services in patients' homes, and outside the four walls of an office.

Healthcare and social service workers are nearly five times more likely to be assaulted than other workers, and the violence is growing. Between 2007 and 2017, the rate of violent injuries grew by 123 percent in hospitals, 201 percent in psychiatric hospitals and substance use treatment facilities, and 28 percent in social service settings. The costs of this violence are high: in injury rates, in professionals being driven from doing the work they love, and in workers' compensation claims and staff shortages.

Currently, there is no federally enforceable violence prevention standard specifically covering healthcare and social services, and federal guidelines do not cover those working in public facilities. H.R. 1309 would require hospitals, residential treatment facilities, clinics at correctional or detention facilities, substance use disorder treatment centers, and other service facilities to develop and implement comprehensive violence prevention plans and provide whistleblower protections for workers. We hear from members about violence all the time: a nurse choked to the point of unconsciousness; a case manager who has suffered bone fractures and debilitating brain injuries from being thrown against walls and floors; social workers brutally attacked, and even killed, when conducting visits to client homes.

No one should face violence, intimidation, or fear for their safety while working to help others and save lives. Violence is not just "part of the job," and studies show that prevention plans work. Many violent incidents can be predicted and minimized with the right staffing, policies and protocols; and this legislation builds upon well-established guidelines from the Department of Labor.

This bill is essential to making healthcare and social service settings safer for workers, but also safer healing environments for patients. When a patient harms a social worker or other clinician, it is traumatizing not only for the clinician but also for the patient; and it sets treatment back for months, if not years. Patients witnessing violence also are traumatized.

We urge you to support the nurses, social workers and other healthcare and social service professionals in your district by voting for H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Alliance for Retired Americans, American Art Therapy Association, American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, American Counseling Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Teachers, American Public Health Association, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) of Southwestern PA, Communications Workers of America (CWA), Emergency Nurses Association, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Midstate Education & Service Foundation, National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD), National Association of Rural Mental Health (NARMH), National Association of Social Workers, National COSH, National Nurses United, National Rural Social Work Caucus, People's Action, Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH), Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (RICOSH), School Social Work Association of America, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Smart Transportation, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, United Steelworkers, Worksafe.

AFL-CIO,
March 28, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing on behalf of the AFL-CIO to urge you to co-sponsor the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Services Workers Act (H.R. 1309). This bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) would direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a federal workplace violence prevention standard to protect workers in health care and social services from injury and death.

Workplace violence is a serious and growing safety and health problem that has reached epidemic levels. Workplace violence is now the third leading cause of job deaths, and results in more than 28,000 serious lost-time injuries each year. Nurses, medical assistants, emergency responders and social workers face some of the greatest threats, suffering more than 70% of all workplace assaults. Women workers particularly are at risk, suffering two out of every three serious workplace violence injuries.

H.R. 1309 would help protect these workers by requiring employers in the health care and social service sectors to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan, tailored to specific workplace and employee populations. As part of the plan, employers would be required to identify and

correct hazards, develop systems for reporting threats of violence and injuries, provide training for workers and management and protect workers from retaliation for reporting workplace violence incidents. The bill ensures that frontline workers have input, helping employers identify common sense measures like alarm devices, lighting, security, and surveillance and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of violent assaults and injuries.

The bill's requirements for the workplace violence prevention plan are based upon existing guidelines and recommendations from OSHA, NIOSH and professional associations. Scientific studies have documented that the implementation of such prevention plans significantly reduces the incidence of workplace violence. Similar measures have been adopted in a number of states and implemented by some employers. However, currently there is no federal OSHA workplace standard, and OSHA has been slow to take action. The majority of healthcare and social service workers lack effective protection and remain at serious risk.

We urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R. 1309 to help protect health care and social service workers from the growing threat of workplace violence and unnecessary injury and death.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs.

Ms. ADAMS. I ask the House to pass without delay the gentleman from Connecticut's legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, let me be clear, the safety of our Nation's healthcare and social service workers is not a partisan issue. Regardless of political beliefs, all of us in this Chamber can appreciate the hard work and empathy that healthcare workers and community caregivers demonstrate every single day on the job.

Their dedication to caring for the most vulnerable members of our communities is extraordinary, and these workers deserve our gratitude, our respect, and our commitment to ensuring they are safe on the job.

The nature of the work in these industries requires healthcare and social services workers to interact directly with individuals who are experiencing tremendous stress, trauma, and grief, which can cause situations to devolve and put workers' safety at risk.

American workers should be kept out of harm's way on the job, so they can return home to their families every day healthy and safe. These caregivers deserve protections, but H.R. 1309 is not the right way to address this important issue. Our healthcare workers and caregivers deserve a thoroughly vetted and researched solution that protects them in the workplace. I think we can do better by working together.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding and for

his untiring leadership on workplace safety issues.

I rise in support of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Healthcare and Social Service Workers Act.

Healthcare facilities are where we should be going to get well, but too often, hardworking, highly skilled employees of these facilities are regularly beaten, kicked, punched, and sometimes killed while performing their jobs. Healthcare and social service workers are four times as likely to suffer serious workplace violence injuries compared to workers in other sectors. Many can never return to work after the assault.

The Government Accountability Office has found the dangers to such workers has gotten worse over the past decade. From 2008 to 2017, workplace violence incidence rates have more than doubled at private hospitals and home healthcare services with the highest rates of violence found in psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals.

Most acts of workplace violence in healthcare facilities are foreseeable, and they are preventable by implementing workplace violence prevention plans. Although OSHA and the Joint Commission for hospital accreditations have issued authoritative guidance, voluntary efforts alone are not enough to ensure the safety of these workers.

Currently, OSHA has no standard for requiring healthcare and social service employers to implement workplace violence prevention programs, and it takes the agency from 7 to 20 years to issue a new standard. The new beryllium standard, for example, which has just been finalized, has been under consideration for about 17 years. And that timeframe is not unusual.

Instead of waiting for years or even decades for OSHA to act, H.R. 1309 would first direct OSHA to issue an interim standard within 1 year and a final standard within 42 months, requiring healthcare and social service employers to implement a workplace violence prevention plan. And further, it protects workers from retaliation for reporting assaults to their employers or government authorities.

Furthermore, since public employees in 24 states lack any OSHA protections, this legislation requires public hospitals and skilled nursing facilities receiving Medicare funds to comply with the workplace violence standards in this bill.

Healthcare and social service workers play a critical role in healthcare for our families and our communities. At the very least, we must do whatever we can to ensure that these workers will come home uninjured at the end of the workday.

Madam Chair, I thank Chairman PALLONE for his cooperation in moving this bill to the floor. I also want to thank Mr. COURTNEY and Representative ALMA ADAMS, chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, for their leadership in advancing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1309.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, yesterday the Department of Labor issued its fall 2019 regulatory agenda. The department announced plans to initiate a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel for the prevention of workplace violence in healthcare and social assistance in January. This is a very positive and important development.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1309 encourages and allows OSHA to skip this important step of gathering feedback and advice from small businesses, all to satisfy the arbitrary 1-year deadline for issuing an interim final standard. Shortchanging the views of small businesses at the expense of a rushed, sweeping, and overly proscriptive standard is not an appropriate trade-off.

Additionally, the legislative text and scope of H.R. 1309 are so proscriptive that OSHA wouldn't be able to deviate from the mandates in the bill even if the recommendation from the small business panel are contrary to that of H.R. 1309.

The Trump administration is moving forward with the rule-making process. Rather than pass H.R. 1309, we should be allowing OSHA to do its work on a comprehensive standard, including soliciting necessary input from small businesses.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, just really quickly, it is true, yesterday that notice went out scheduling that panel. I would just note, that is the third time the department has sent out such a notice, and they have canceled the prior panels. We will see whether or not it actually happens in January.

We are in the third year of this administration, after a GAO report, again after statistics and hearings, where we have asked questions of the department to move on this, and frankly, we are talking about adopting OSHA's own guidelines in the interim standards.

This is not some farfetched, radical proposal. It is their own recommendations about how you can safely and effectively reduce workplace violence.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a great member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Healthcare and Social Service Workers Act.

A few years ago, two workers in Oregon were tragically wounded in a workplace stabbing at an organization that provides essential support services to youth who are facing addiction, homelessness, and behavioral health issues.

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Following the incident, Oregon AFSCME members organized to improve difficult working conditions that were compromising the quality of services for vulnerable clients as well as the safety of employees.

Unfortunately, the experience of these workers is too common. According to a November 2018 report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social service workers face a disproportionate risk of on-the-job violence and injuries.

The workers in Oregon, and healthcare and social service workers across the country, need evidence-based workplace violence prevention plans tailored to the needs of the populations they serve. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 1309, introduced by my colleague, Congressman COURTNEY.

Healthcare and social service workers help to care for our families, friends, and loved ones. Today, we have the chance to support their well-being in the workplace.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter in support of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act from the National Association of Social Workers.

Good morning: We are writing today to encourage your boss to vote to approve H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, which is scheduled to come to the House floor for a vote next week. This bipartisan legislation is instrumental in promoting safer working conditions for millions of social workers, nurses and other similar professionals who experience unacceptably high levels of violence on the job.

The National Association of Social Workers represents the interests of over 750,000 social workers nationwide who are employed in wide variety of settings, including hospitals, community clinics, schools and correctional facilities among others. Many social workers provide services outside the four walls of an office, such as in family homes.

As you may know, healthcare and social service workers are nearly five times more likely to be assaulted at work than other professionals, and the rate of violence is growing. Between 2007 and 2017, the rate of violent injuries grew by 123% in hospitals, 201% in psychiatric hospitals and substance use treatment facilities, and 28% in social service settings. The costs of this violence are high: in injury rates, in professionals being driven from doing the work they love, in workers' compensation claims and staff shortages. Workplace violence is also highly problematic for patients. Safe environments are healing environments.

Currently, there is no federal enforceable violence prevention standard covering healthcare and social services and federal guidelines do not cover those working in public facilities. H.R. 1309 would require hospitals, residential treatment facilities, substance use disorder treatment centers, clinics at correctional or detention facilities, and other service facilities to develop and implement comprehensive violence prevention plans and provide whistle-blower protections for workers. These commonsense plans can be customized to reflect the unique safety needs and concerns of each setting.

When the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers

Act comes before your boss for consideration, we urge your boss to support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DINA L. KASTNER, MSS, MLSP,
Senior Field Organizer,
National Association of Social Workers.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER), one of our great new freshmen.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

I also rise today to share Tina Suckow's story with the House of Representatives.

Tina is my constituent, and she is a proud Iowan, wife, mother, grandmother, and AFSCME member. She is also a dedicated nurse who spent 15 years caring for those living with mental health conditions.

Tragically, this tough and thick-skinned woman, with a great sense of humor and a natural gift for helping people, can now no longer physically work.

More than a year ago, Tina was horribly injured at the State of Iowa's Independence Mental Health Institute in my district.

An aggressive patient triggered a call for additional assistance. Although Tina was working in a different section of the campus at the time, she made her way over to help, with about a dozen other coworkers.

For roughly 45 minutes, the patient was erratic and repeatedly threatened to hurt the first person who tried to get close to him. When nothing worked to calm him, a supervisor grabbed a padded shield, but nobody knew that the facility even had this equipment, and they weren't trained to use it.

As her coworker approached with the shield, Tina became trapped between it and the patient. He hit Tina in the head so many times that she lost consciousness.

After dedicating her career and her life to caring for others, Tina was now the one in need. Since then, she has been in and out of surgeries, and the emotional damage remains. That day was the worst day of Tina's life.

Sadly, the State has made it worse by denying her unpaid time off requests and kicking her off the payroll.

Tina wants her story shared today so that employees like her are protected.

I am personally upset that it is hard to do in States like Iowa. You see, in 2017, I was a State representative in Iowa who spent 2 days fighting back against the gutting of collective bargaining in my State, where they went

after our teachers, our corrections officers, our bus drivers, and folks like Tina. I stood on that floor and voted "no."

Unfortunately, we didn't have the votes. That bill passed, and they gutted the rights of folks like Tina all across my State. Iowa's working families are continuing to pay the price for those politically motivated attacks.

Nearly 1,000 jobs in our State have been eliminated since 2011. These staffing shortages, because of this and the failure to train employees on vital safety measures, have put lives like Tina's on the line.

In that same facility, several other employees have been attacked in the last year.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Iowa.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Madam Chair, in other facilities across the State, they have been attacked in the last year. It is unconscionable. This isn't how you treat people.

The law also created a system that was rigged against working people, forcing employees to go through costly recertification processes and trying to stop them from being able to collectively bargain and being able to fight for their rights.

Luckily for us in Iowa, our public employees are strong. They banded together and were recertified, and I am proud to represent them.

Today, I will be casting this vote for Tina Suckow, who I know is watching at home today.

This bill will require places like the State of Iowa to stop failing their employees, by requiring workplace protections. It is a first step in protecting Iowans on the front lines.

I am standing with our hardworking men and women today who ask for a safe workplace, and now I am standing with them on the floor of the U.S. House, proudly voting "yes" for them and folks all across my State.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from AFSCME in support of H.R. 1309.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, November 19, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (H.R. 1309), which protects workers and their right to be safe from violence at their workplace. H.R. 1309 requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a standard on workplace violence prevention in health care and social service assistance settings.

Enactment of H.R. 1309 is needed because: The current OSHA guidance is voluntary. It does not require employers to address the high risk of violence on the job for health

care workers and social service workers. Some 70 percent of all nonfatal workplace assaults typically occur in these two sectors and has increased over the years.

It challenges the myth that workplace violence is random, unpreventable and just part of the job. There is a degree of uncertainty, but workplace violence has clear patterns and detectable risk factors in health care and social service settings. Actions can be taken to reduce the risk of workplace violence.

The cost of inaction is high. It is calculated in the pain, loss, suffering and the disruption to lives, workplaces and communities caused by these incidents to workers and their families.

We ask that you send a clear message that Congress will not ignore the harm and suffering caused to health care, behavioral health and social service workers by workplace violence. Please vote in support of H.R. 1309.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,

Director of Federal Government Affairs.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. COURTNEY for yielding, and I proudly rise today in support of his legislation.

The frequency and scale of workplace violence are alarmingly high, but no statistic, even the startling ones that we have learned about, can fully reflect the pain, loss, and suffering that these incidents can cause.

As we consider the bill before us today, I ask that you remember and honor Pamela Knight.

Pamela was an AFSCME Council 31, Local 448 member. She worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as a child protection specialist.

She had been sent to take a 2-year-old child into protective custody from an abusive father. As she got out of her car, Pamela was attacked by the boy's father. Brutally beaten, Ms. Knight suffered blunt force trauma to her head.

After 11 years on the job, she succumbed to her injuries, paying the ultimate price for protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Pamela and her fellow DCFS employees are the front line of defense in protecting children in Illinois and around the country. In this vital work, they can encounter families in crisis stemming from poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence.

For two decades, OSHA has worked with employers on voluntary guidelines to address workplace violence, yet the rate of violence has gone up.

Enough is enough. Today, we can do the right thing by Pamela Knight and the unsung heroes in healthcare and social services by passing this important, critical, and necessary piece of legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman

from Florida (Ms. WILSON), the chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Chair, I am pleased to speak in support of this important and necessary piece of legislation.

Through my work as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, and as former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I have worked extensively on protecting America's workers from unsafe conditions in the workplace.

This legislation is an important step toward protecting our healthcare and social service workers from workplace violence. Unfortunately, it also is a very necessary step.

We know that healthcare and social service workers experience the highest rate of serious injury due to workplace violence. They, literally, are jumped on and beaten up by their patients at work, thrown against walls and floors, suffering bone fractures and brain injuries.

These workers have a lost time injury rate of 14.8 per 10,000 workers, compared to 3.1 for all other workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Currently, Federal efforts to protect workers from workplace violence depends solely on the use of OSHA's general duty clause. That part of the Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards. However, it is legally cumbersome to apply and is mostly applied after an injury occurs. What is needed are standards to prevent injuries in advance, not after-the-fact enforcement.

While OSHA has adopted guidelines for preventing violence against healthcare and social service workers, these are only temporary and voluntary. This legislation will codify these guidelines and provide OSHA with the necessary authority to require healthcare facilities and social service providers to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan.

Madam Chair, while these changes are important to the entire Nation, they are even more important to my district in Florida. Given the large population of senior citizens, the need for healthcare and social service workers is great.

Performing these jobs can be both physically and emotionally draining, even without the threat of being attacked. The added danger of physical violence may lead many potential healthcare and social service workers to seek employment elsewhere, to leave the field altogether, or quit.

Violence in the workplace has a cascading effect on everyone involved, from the workers who bear the brunt of the violent attacks, to the families they serve, to the patients who witness the violence, some in a very fragile state.

What we do know from evidence and research is that healthcare facilities

that have violence prevention plans have cut the rate of injuries and related workers' compensation costs.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HASTINGS). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge every Member to vote "yes" on H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter in support of this legislation from the American Federation of Teachers.

Washington, DC, November 19, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, including 170,000 healthcare workers, I strongly urge you to vote YES on H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. I also want to thank Rep. JOE COURTNEY (D-Conn.) for his leadership on this bill and for his steadfast commitment to protecting all healthcare workers.

When healthcare professionals show up to work, they shouldn't have to worry about whether they are going to be injured in an assault. Sadly, healthcare and social service workers are nearly five times more likely to be assaulted while on the job than the rest of our workforce. The costs of this violence are high: in injury rates, in professionals being driven from doing the work they love, and in workers' compensation claims and staff shortages.

H.R. 1309 would require hospitals and other facilities to develop and implement comprehensive violence prevention plans and provide whistleblower protections for nurses and other workers facing violence. Current federal workplace protections do not focus on healthcare and social service workers and don't cover those working in public facilities. This bill is a chance to make healthcare settings safer environments for staff and patients alike. As one of the largest healthcare unions in the country, the AFT has been striving to address workplace violence for years; this is our members' top healthcare priority.

I hear from AFT healthcare members about violence all the time: A nurse was choked to the point of unconsciousness last year; a nurse was stabbed in 2017; members have suffered bone fractures and brain injuries from being thrown against walls and floors. The House Education and Labor Committee held a hearing on the topic of workplace violence earlier this year. In her testimony, the AFT witness described being attacked:

He then spun around on his back and kicked his leg high into the air striking me in the neck, hitting with such force to my throat that my head snapped backward; I heard this "bang" and "pop," and all the air just rushed out of me. . . . Since June 2015, I have been diagnosed with moderate to severe post-traumatic stress disorder, moderate anxiety, insomnia, depressive disorder and social phobia related to this incident. . . . I LOVED being a nurse. I have a huge problem still calling myself a nurse. I do not know what to call myself now. There is a deep loss when you used to make a difference in the lives of people, in your true calling and with passion. Now, that space is filled with extreme sadness and fear. . . . I lost my career.

No one should face violence or intimidation, or fear for their safety, while working to heal others and save lives. Violence is not just "part of the job," and studies show that prevention plans work. Many violent incidents can be predicted and minimized with the right staffing, policies and protocols, and this legislation builds upon well-established guidelines from the Department of Labor.

I strongly urge you to support the nurses, social workers and other healthcare professionals in your district by voting YES on H.R. 1309.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,
President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership.

I rise as a cosponsor of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. SCOTT, and chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. ADAMS. I thank the complete committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

As I have listened to testimony over the last couple of days, I began to frame a concept that we must do the right thing.

As I have interacted with my constituents, as I understand the work of healthcare workers and social service workers, they take care of the broken of our society, some who may be ill, some who may have necessities of life that have not been fulfilled.

□ 1000

These individuals are under enormous pressure, yet our workers in the workplace caring for these people have the largest heart. They train to be sympathetic and empathetic.

I am reminded of a situation in my local hospital where an individual broke loose because that person was suffering from a mental challenge, illness, health need, mixed in with a population that was there for other reasons. That person was in the mix of healthcare workers trying to care for others, but trying to be kind, sympathetic, and caring, but that person was in a state of crisis that was threatening to the patients and threatening to the workers.

This is a crucial act. We are at a crisis moment. It is important to recognize that these incidents, as have been evidenced on the floor of the House, happen every day, even as we speak. Those individuals with that person were not able to bring him to a resolve, and law enforcement had to be engaged.

Those are situations that make it difficult. We need this interim response, and we need it quickly. 200,000 facilities will be covered, and, as was evidenced on the floor by Mr. COURTNEY, at \$9,000 per facility. That is a

worthwhile investment to stop someone who is injured from having a lifelong series of injuries.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Coming from the Texas Medical Center in my community and many other hospitals and seeing the proliferation of health clinics, federally qualified health clinics, and social service agencies all attempting to do the right thing—and the patients who are there deserve to have the best care possible, but they are, in many instances, ill; they are, in many instances, broken. In order to have the staff continue to serve them, let's protect those workers. Let's stand alongside those workers.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support this legislation and let us begin to stand alongside those who work with those who are most in need.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have exhausted all speakers, and I am prepared to close on my side.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as we debate the impact of H.R. 1309 on healthcare providers, I note that this bill is in violation of the House's pay-as-you-go, or paygo, rule.

The paygo rule requires that legislation affecting direct spending not increase the deficit. Any legislation projected to increase direct spending must be offset by equivalent amounts of direct spending cuts, revenue increases, or a combination of both.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1309 will increase the deficit by \$60 million between 2020 and 2029. In addition, CBO estimates the cost of H.R. 1309 to private entities will be at least \$1.8 billion in the first 2 years and at least \$750 million annually thereafter.

Democrats wrote this particular paygo rule months ago, and they are already abandoning it. It is not hard to find \$60 million in savings for the taxpayers, and the Democrats' failure to do so speaks volumes about their regard for fiscal discipline. This significant violation of the budget rules is yet another reason to oppose this bill.

Madam Chair, protecting the safety of healthcare and social service workers is not a partisan issue. I reiterate that statement. All of us here today, regardless of our political beliefs, appreciate the hard work and empathy that healthcare workers and community caregivers demonstrate every single day on the job.

There is much agreement on both sides of the aisle that these workers de-

serve protections in the workplace. Given this bipartisan interest, it is frustrating that the Democrats have moved forward with the rushed and ill-conceived legislation we are debating today.

H.R. 1309 ignores expert and practical input; imposes mandates that may ultimately harm the very people this legislation intends to protect; forecloses better, more protective and feasible solutions that would result from the established rulemaking process; fails to allow meaningful public input; and imposes costly requirements on regulated entities.

Our healthcare workers and caregivers deserve a thoroughly vetted and researched solution that protects them in the workplace, but H.R. 1309 badly fails to deliver on that front.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, regarding the paygo issue, just to be clear, paygo applies to the budget impact. And the gentlewoman is absolutely correct; CBO calculated a \$60 million deficit impact over 10 years in the Medicare program. Again, we spend over \$700 billion a year in Medicare, and, by all projections, that is going to go up.

By the way, \$60 million is for rural hospitals. If you read the CBO note, that is really the retroactive impact that has caused that, really, budget dust in terms of the impact to the Medicare program.

Madam Chair, we have heard today about the urgency that this emergency requires. We understand the statistics. Workers are uniquely vulnerable in the healthcare setting to violence as they care for the most vulnerable among us.

We know how to help. We know that evidence-based practices will lower this trend line. And we know that when hospitals and other facilities adopt them, rates of violence against staff go down.

In closing, I would like to share a few words from a letter written to me by Gene Sausse from Louisiana about his sister, Lynne Truxillo, who was a nurse in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until her death just this past April of this year in the hands of a patient while she worked.

Lynne saw the patient attacking one of her colleagues, and when she intervened, the patient turned on her, grabbed her by the back of the neck, slammed it into a desk, and she passed out and suffered additional injuries. A few days later, she died from her injuries.

Lynne's brother came to Washington, unannounced to my office, a few months ago to share his family's grief and explained why we cannot wait another 20 years for OSHA to act. This is what he said:

"It wasn't until days after my sister, Registered Nurse Lynne Sausse

Truxillo, was brutally attacked and murdered by a patient inside of Baton Rouge General Hospital during her shift 6 months ago did I learn that violent workplace incident rates are four times higher in healthcare than all other industries. . . . As a small business owner in New Orleans, I have firsthand experience with the complex and often burdensome nature of government regulation. I get that, and I support fewer regulations in certain circumstances. However, in the 6 months since Lynne's death, I've learned how gravely and disproportionately vulnerable healthcare workers are to acts of workplace violence against them. The data, stats, and facts are undeniable on the subject. There's practically a news story every day somewhere in America about it. It is unconscionable that less care is given for the health and well-being of those who care for us when we need it most. Thank you for trying to spare other families from the kind of grief and tragedy mine has endured every day since we lost our beautiful sister, mother, and daughter."

She should be home making Thanksgiving dinner for her children—mother of two. But because we don't have a national enforceable standard to reduce workplace violence in healthcare settings and social work, this gentleman—he is not a lobbyist; he is not a super-PAC; he is a brother—came to Washington at his own expense, like so many others, to talk about the fact that we have a crisis. It is our job to address that crisis, and that is what this bill does.

Madam Chair, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1309, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act."

This bill offers workplace violence protection to our nation's caregivers—including nurses, social workers, and many others who dedicate their lives to caring for those in need.

Last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that health care and social service workers were nearly five times as likely to suffer a serious workplace violence injury than workers in other sectors.

Public employees, such as care givers in state and local government, health care and social service work, suffer particularly high rates of workplace violence.

In 2017, state government health care and social service workers were almost nine times more likely to be injured by an assault than private-sector health care workers.

Workplace violence often causes both physical and emotional harm.

Victims of these incidents often suffer career-ending post-traumatic stress disorders that take away their livelihoods and weaken an already stretched health care workforce.

In 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 707,400 Social Workers are employed in the United States.

Social worker employment is expected to grow 16 percent between 2016 and 2026; a much faster rate than the average career in the United States.

The ratio of social workers to populations varies widely in the United States, ranging from 80 per 100,000 people in Arkansas to 572 per 100,000 in Washington, D.C.

Northeast states tend to have high numbers of social workers per capita, and the southern states have fewer social workers per capita.

Social workers work in a variety of settings, including mental health clinics, schools, child welfare and human service agencies, hospitals, settlement houses, community development corporations, and private practices.

They generally work full time and may need to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

There is currently no standard from OSHA, the federal agency created to protect workers' safety, that requires employers to implement violence prevention plans that would help reduce workplace violence injuries among health care and social service workers.

The lack of an enforceable standard means that OSHA has few meaningful tools to protect health care workers from the threat of workplace violence.

Unless Congress intervenes, it is highly unlikely there will be any action taken to protect health care workers in the next decade.

The Government Accountability Office estimated, conservatively, that it takes OSHA at least 7 years to issue a standard.

Two of the most significant OSHA standards issued in recent history—crystalline silica and beryllium, which cause irreversible lung disease—each took OSHA 20 years to finalize.

Despite OSHA promises and its obligation to defend workers' safety, the Trump Administration is erecting new barriers that will prevent OSHA from protecting caregivers from workplace violence.

This bill is needed more now due to a shift in the social work industry: today's social workers are becoming less focused on solving problems and more focused on primary prevention, providing interventions in advance to prevent problems from ever occurring in at-risk populations.

Social work is more than a job.

Social workers help millions of Americans live fuller, more productive and safer lives.

They often are the primary front line of assistance to 13.9 percent of Americans living below the poverty line.

Through mentorship, social workers have contributed to a 68 percent decline in the juvenile arrest rate between 1996 and 2015.

The incarceration rate in the United States is approximately 716 per 100,000, the highest in the world, which means that social workers are invaluable in helping the formerly incarcerated transition into community life.

Social workers provide substantial care and services to the mentally ill.

Reports state that 1 in 4 people in the world will be affected by mental or neurological disorders at some point in their lives.

Child Protective Services and its social workers check up on 3.2 million children each year.

Every year, more than 3.6 million referrals are made to child protection agencies. These referrals involve more than 6.6 million children.

Social Workers are the first line of prevention to prevent over 1.2 million students drop outs from high school each year (one every 26 seconds).

Both Child and Family Social Worker and Clinical Social Worker rank among the top 100 best jobs of 2019.

Professional social workers are the largest group of mental health services providers in the United States.

83 percent of all social workers are female. 86 percent of Master of Social Work graduates in 2015 were female.

47 percent of social workers work in the child, family, and school sector, 26 percent work in healthcare, 18 percent work in mental health and substance abuse, and 9 percent work in other sectors.

The primary employers of social workers are governments (41 percent), private nonprofit or charitable organizations (34 percent), and private-for-profit businesses (22 percent).

More than 40 percent of all disaster mental health volunteers trained by the American Red Cross are professional social workers.

The importance of social workers has been recognized by Jane Addams, a social worker, becoming one of the first women to receive a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1309.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-37, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-302, shall be considered as adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1309

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 "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

Sec. 101. Workplace violence prevention standard.

Sec. 102. Scope and application.

Sec. 103. Requirements for workplace violence prevention standard.

Sec. 104. Rules of construction.

Sec. 105. Other definitions.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Sec. 201. Application of the workplace violence prevention standard to certain facilities receiving Medicare funds.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

SEC. 101. WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD.

(a) INTERIM FINAL STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate an interim final standard on workplace violence prevention—

(A) to require certain employers in the health care and social service sectors, and certain employers in sectors that conduct activities similar to the activities in the health care and social service sectors, to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan to protect health care workers, social service workers, and other personnel from workplace violence; and

(B) that shall, at a minimum, be based on the Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor in 2015 and adhere to the requirements of this title.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.—The following shall not apply to the promulgation of the interim final standard under this subsection:

(A) The requirements applicable to occupational safety and health standards under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)).

(B) The requirements of chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and titles 2 and 42, United States Code.

(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall, prior to promulgating the interim final standard under this subsection, provide notice in the Federal Register of the interim final standard and a 30-day period for public comment.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF INTERIM STANDARD.—The interim final standard shall—

(A) take effect on a date that is not later than 30 days after promulgation, except that such interim final standard may include a reasonable phase-in period for the implementation of required engineering controls that take effect after such date;

(B) be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)); and

(C) be in effect until the final standard described in subsection (b) becomes effective and enforceable.

(5) FAILURE TO PROMULGATE.—If an interim final standard described in paragraph (1) is not promulgated not later than 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act, the provisions of this title shall be in effect and enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) until such provisions are superseded in whole by an interim final standard promulgated by the Secretary that meets the requirements of paragraph (1).

(b) FINAL STANDARD.—

(1) PROPOSED STANDARD.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655), promulgate a proposed standard on workplace violence prevention—

(A) for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1)(A); and

(B) that shall include, at a minimum, the elements contained in the interim final standard promulgated under subsection (a).

(2) FINAL STANDARD.—Not later than 42 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate a final standard on such proposed standard that shall—

(A) provide no less protection than any workplace violence standard adopted by a State plan that has been approved by the Secretary under section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 667); and

(B) be effective and enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)).

SEC. 102. SCOPE AND APPLICATION.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered facility” includes the following:

(i) Any hospital, including any specialty hospital, in-patient or outpatient setting, or clinic operating within a hospital license, or any setting that provides outpatient services.

(ii) Any residential treatment facility, including any nursing home, skilled nursing facility, hospice facility, and long-term care facility.

(iii) Any non-residential treatment or service setting.

(iv) Any medical treatment or social service setting or clinic at a correctional or detention facility.

(v) Any community care setting, including a community-based residential facility, group home, and mental health clinic.

(vi) Any psychiatric treatment facility.

(vii) Any drug abuse or substance use disorder treatment center.

(viii) Any independent freestanding emergency centers.

(ix) Any facility described in clauses (i) through (viii) operated by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(x) Any other facility the Secretary determines should be covered under the standards promulgated under section 101.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “covered facility” does not include an office of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or any other health practitioner that is not physically located within a covered facility described in clauses (i) through (x) of subparagraph (A).

(2) COVERED SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered service” includes the following services and operations:

(i) Any services and operations provided in any field work setting, including home health care, home-based hospice, and home-based social work.

(ii) Any emergency services and transport, including such services provided by firefighters and emergency responders.

(iii) Any services described in clauses (i) and (ii) performed by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(iv) Any other services and operations the Secretary determines should be covered under the standards promulgated under section 101.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “covered service” does not include child day care services.

(3) COVERED EMPLOYER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered employer” includes a person (including a contractor, subcontractor, a temporary service firm, or an employee leasing entity) that employs an individual to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “covered employer” does not include an individual who privately employs, in the individual’s residence, a person to perform covered services for the individual or a family member of the individual.

(4) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term “covered employee” includes an individual employed by a covered employer to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

SEC. 103. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD.

Each standard described in section 101 shall include, at a minimum, the following requirements:

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of promulgation of the interim final standard under section 101(a), a covered employer shall develop, implement, and maintain an effective written workplace violence prevention plan for covered

employees at each covered facility and for covered employees performing a covered service on behalf of such employer, which meets the following:

(A) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—Each Plan shall—
(i) be developed and implemented with the meaningful participation of direct care employees, other employees, and employee representatives, for all aspects of the Plan;

(ii) be tailored and specific to conditions and hazards for the covered facility or the covered service, including patient-specific risk factors and risk factors specific to each work area or unit; and

(iii) be suitable for the size, complexity, and type of operations at the covered facility or for the covered service, and remain in effect at all times.

(B) PLAN CONTENT.—Each Plan shall include procedures and methods for the following:

(i) Identification of the individual responsible for implementation of the Plan.

(ii) With respect to each work area and unit at the covered facility or while covered employees are performing the covered service, risk assessment and identification of workplace violence risks and hazards to employees exposed to such risks and hazards (including environmental risk factors and patient-specific risk factors), which shall be—

(I) informed by past violent incidents specific to such covered facility or such covered service; and

(II) conducted with, at a minimum—

(aa) direct care employees;

(bb) where applicable, the representatives of such employees; and

(cc) the employer.

(iii) Hazard prevention, engineering controls, or work practice controls to correct hazards, in a timely manner, applying industrial hygiene principles of the hierarchy of controls, which—

(I) may include security and alarm systems, adequate exit routes, monitoring systems, barrier protection, established areas for patients and clients, lighting, entry procedures, staffing and working in teams, and systems to identify and flag clients with a history of violence; and

(II) shall ensure that employers correct, in a timely manner, hazards identified in any violent incident investigation described in paragraph (2) and any annual report described in paragraph (5).

(iv) Reporting, incident response, and post-incident investigation procedures, including procedures—

(I) for employees to report workplace violence risks, hazards, and incidents;

(II) for employers to respond to reports of workplace violence;

(III) for employers to perform a post-incident investigation and debriefing of all reports of workplace violence with the participation of employees and their representatives; and

(IV) to provide medical care or first aid to affected employees.

(v) Procedures for emergency response, including procedures for threats of mass casualties and procedures for incidents involving a firearm or a dangerous weapon.

(vi) Procedures for communicating with and training the covered employees on workplace violence hazards, threats, and work practice controls, the employer’s plan, and procedures for confronting, responding to, and reporting workplace violence threats, incidents, and concerns, and employee rights.

(vii) Procedures for—

(I) ensuring the coordination of risk assessment efforts, Plan development, and implementation of the Plan with other employers who have employees who work at the covered facility or who are performing the covered service; and

(II) determining which covered employer or covered employers shall be responsible for implementing and complying with the provisions of the standard applicable to the working conditions over which such employers have control.

(viii) Procedures for conducting the annual evaluation under paragraph (6).

(C) AVAILABILITY OF PLAN.—Each Plan shall be made available at all times to the covered employees who are covered under such Plan.

(2) VIOLENT INCIDENT INVESTIGATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after a workplace violence incident, risk, or hazard of which a covered employer has knowledge, the employer shall conduct an investigation of such incident, risk, or hazard under which the employer shall—

(i) review the circumstances of the incident, risk, or hazard, and whether any controls or measures implemented pursuant to the Plan of the employer were effective; and

(ii) solicit input from involved employees, their representatives, and supervisors about the cause of the incident, risk, or hazard, and whether further corrective measures (including system-level factors) could have prevented the incident, risk, or hazard.

(B) DOCUMENTATION.—A covered employer shall document the findings, recommendations, and corrective measures taken for each investigation conducted under this paragraph.

(3) TRAINING AND EDUCATION.—With respect to the covered employees covered under a Plan of a covered employer, the employer shall provide training and education to such employees who may be exposed to workplace violence hazards and risks, which meet the following requirements:

(A) Annual training and education shall include information on the Plan, including identified workplace violence hazards, work practice control measures, reporting procedures, record keeping requirements, response procedures, and employee rights.

(B) Additional hazard recognition training shall be provided for supervisors and managers to ensure they—

(i) can recognize high-risk situations; and

(ii) do not assign employees to situations that predictably compromise the safety of such employees.

(C) Additional training shall be provided for each such covered employee whose job circumstances have changed, within a reasonable timeframe after such change.

(D) Applicable training shall be provided under this paragraph for each new covered employee prior to the employee’s job assignment.

(E) All training shall provide such employees opportunities to ask questions, give feedback on training, and request additional instruction, clarification, or other followup.

(F) All training shall be provided in-person and by an individual with knowledge of workplace violence prevention and of the Plan, except that any annual training described in subparagraph (A) provided to an employee after the first year such training is provided to such employee may be conducted by live video if in-person training is impracticable.

(G) All training shall be appropriate in content and vocabulary to the language, educational level, and literacy of such covered employees.

(4) RECORDKEEPING AND ACCESS TO PLAN RECORDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each covered employer shall—

(i) maintain for not less than 5 years—

(I) records related to each Plan of the employer, including workplace violence risk and hazard assessments, and identification, evaluation, correction, and training procedures;

(II) a violent incident log described in subparagraph (B) for recording all workplace violence incidents; and

(III) records of all incident investigations as required under paragraph (2)(B); and

(ii) (I) make such records and logs available, upon request, to covered employees and their representatives for examination and copying in accordance with section 1910.1020 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is

in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and in a manner consistent with HIPAA privacy regulations (defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-9(b)(3))) and part 2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as such part is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(II) ensure that any such records and logs that may be copied, transmitted electronically, or otherwise removed from the employer's control for purposes of this clause omit any element of personal identifying information sufficient to allow identification of any patient, resident, client, or other individual alleged to have committed a violent incident (including the individual's name, address, electronic mail address, telephone number, or social security number, or other information that, alone or in combination with other publicly available information, reveals such individual's identity).

(B) VIOLENT INCIDENT LOG DESCRIPTION.—Each violent incident log shall—

(i) be maintained by a covered employer for each covered facility controlled by the employer and for each covered service being performed by a covered employee on behalf of such employer;

(ii) be based on a template developed by the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act;

(iii) include, at a minimum, a description of—
(I) the violent incident (including environmental risk factors present at the time of the incident);

(II) the date, time, and location of the incident, and the names and job titles of involved employees;

(III) the nature and extent of injuries to covered employees;

(IV) a classification of the perpetrator who committed the violence, including whether the perpetrator was—

(aa) a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(bb) a family or friend of a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(cc) a stranger;

(dd) a coworker, supervisor, or manager of a covered employee;

(ee) a partner, spouse, parent, or relative of a covered employee; or

(ff) any other appropriate classification;

(V) the type of violent incident (such as type 1 violence, type 2 violence, type 3 violence, or type 4 violence); and

(VI) how the incident was abated;

(iv) not later than 7 days after the employer learns of such incident, contain a record of each violent incident, which is updated to ensure completeness of such record;

(v) be maintained for not less than 5 years; and

(vi) in the case of a violent incident involving a privacy concern case, protect the identity of employees in a manner consistent with section 1904.29(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(C) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

(i) COVERED EMPLOYERS.—Each covered employer shall prepare an annual summary of each violent incident log for the preceding calendar year that shall—

(I) with respect to each covered facility, and each covered service, for which such a log has been maintained, include the total number of violent incidents, the number of recordable injuries related to such incidents, and the total number of hours worked by the covered employees for such preceding year;

(II) be completed on a form provided by the Secretary;

(III) be posted for three months beginning February 1 of each year in a manner consistent with the requirements of section 1904 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), relating to the posting of summaries of injury and illness logs;

(IV) be located in a conspicuous place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted; and

(V) not be altered, defaced, or covered by other material.

(ii) SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the promulgation of the interim final standard under section 101(a), the Secretary shall make available a platform for the electronic submission of annual summaries required under this paragraph.

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than February 15 of each year, each covered employer shall report to the Secretary, the frequency, quantity, and severity of workplace violence, and any incident response and post-incident investigation (including abatement measures) for the incidents set forth in the annual summary of the violent incident log described in paragraph (4)(C).

(6) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—Each covered employer shall conduct an annual written evaluation, conducted with the full, active participation of covered employees and employee representatives, of—

(A) the implementation and effectiveness of the Plan, including a review of the violent incident log; and

(B) compliance with training required by each standard described in section 101, and specified in the Plan.

(7) ANTI-RETALIATION.—

(A) POLICY.—Each covered employer shall adopt a policy prohibiting any person (including an agent of the employer) from discriminating or retaliating against any employee for reporting, or seeking assistance or intervention from, a workplace violence incident, threat, or concern to the employer, law enforcement, local emergency services, or a government agency, or participating in an incident investigation.

(B) PROHIBITION.—No covered employer shall discriminate or retaliate against any employee for—

(i) reporting a workplace violence incident, threat, or concern to, or seeking assistance or intervention with respect to such incident, threat, or concern from, the employer, law enforcement, local emergency services, or a local, State, or Federal government agency; or

(ii) exercising any other rights under this paragraph.

(C) ENFORCEMENT.—This paragraph shall be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655(b)).

SEC. 104. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 667)—

(1) nothing in this title shall be construed to curtail or limit authority of the Secretary under any other provision of the law; and

(2) the rights, privileges, or remedies of covered employees shall be in addition to the rights, privileges, or remedies provided under any Federal or State law, or any collective bargaining agreement.

SEC. 105. OTHER DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “workplace violence” means any act of violence or threat of violence, without regard to intent, that occurs at a covered facility or while a covered employee performs a covered service.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “workplace violence” does not include lawful acts of self-defense or lawful acts of defense of others.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—The term “workplace violence” includes—

(i) the threat or use of physical force against a covered employee that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, psychological trauma, or stress, without regard to whether the covered employee sustains an injury, psychological trauma, or stress; and

(ii) an incident involving the threat or use of a firearm or a dangerous weapon, including the use of common objects as weapons, without regard to whether the employee sustains an injury, psychological trauma, or stress.

(2) TYPE 1 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 1 violence”—

(A) means workplace violence directed at a covered employee at a covered facility or while performing a covered service by an individual who has no legitimate business at the covered facility or with respect to such covered service; and

(B) includes violent acts by any individual who enters the covered facility or worksite where a covered service is being performed with the intent to commit a crime.

(3) TYPE 2 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 2 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by customers, clients, patients, students, inmates, or any individual for whom a covered facility provides services or for whom the employee performs covered services.

(4) TYPE 3 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 3 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by a present or former employee, supervisor, or manager.

(5) TYPE 4 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 4 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by an individual who is not an employee, but has or is known to have had a personal relationship with such employee, or with a customer, client, patient, student, inmate, or any individual for whom a covered facility provides services or for whom the employee performs covered services.

(6) THREAT OF VIOLENCE.—The term “threat of violence” means a statement or conduct that—
(A) causes an individual to fear for such individual's safety because there is a reasonable possibility the individual might be physically injured; and

(B) serves no legitimate purpose.

(7) ALARM.—The term “alarm” means a mechanical, electrical, or electronic device that does not rely upon an employee's vocalization in order to alert others.

(8) DANGEROUS WEAPON.—The term “dangerous weapon” means an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury, without regard to whether such instrument was designed for that purpose.

(9) ENGINEERING CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “engineering controls” means an aspect of the built space or a device that removes a hazard from the workplace or creates a barrier between a covered employee and the hazard.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of reducing workplace violence hazards, the term “engineering controls” includes electronic access controls to employee occupied areas, weapon detectors (installed or handheld), enclosed workstations with shatter-resistant glass, deep service counters, separate rooms or areas for high-risk patients, locks on doors, removing access to or securing items that could be used as weapons, furniture affixed to the floor, opaque glass in patient rooms (which protects privacy, but allows the health care provider to see where the patient is before entering the room), closed-circuit television monitoring and video recording, sight-aids, and personal alarm devices.

(10) ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “environmental risk factors” means factors in the covered facility or area in which a covered service is performed that may contribute to the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—Environmental risk factors may be associated with the specific task being performed or the work area, such as working in an isolated area, poor illumination or blocked visibility, and lack of physical barriers between individuals and persons at risk of committing workplace violence.

(11) PATIENT-SPECIFIC RISK FACTORS.—The term “patient-specific risk factors” means factors specific to a patient that may increase the

likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident, including—

(A) a patient's treatment and medication status, and history of violence and use of drugs or alcohol; and

(B) any conditions or disease processes of the patient that may cause the patient to experience confusion or disorientation, be non-responsive to instruction, behave unpredictably, or engage in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior.

(12) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(13) WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "work practice controls" means procedures and rules that are used to effectively reduce workplace violence hazards.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "work practice controls" includes—

(i) assigning and placing sufficient numbers of staff to reduce patient-specific Type 2 workplace violence hazards;

(ii) provision of dedicated and available safety personnel such as security guards;

(iii) employee training on workplace violence prevention methods and techniques to de-escalate and minimize violent behavior; and

(iv) employee training on procedures for response in the event of a workplace violence incident and for post-incident response.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

SEC. 201. APPLICATION OF THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD TO CERTAIN FACILITIES RECEIVING MEDICARE FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1866 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (X), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (Y), by striking at the end the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (Y) the following new subparagraph:

"(Z) in the case of hospitals that are not otherwise subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (or a State occupational safety and health plan that is approved under 18(b) of such Act) and skilled nursing facilities that are not otherwise subject to such Act (or such a State occupational safety and health plan), to comply with the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard (as promulgated under section 101 of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act)."; and

(2) in subsection (b)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and a hospital or skilled nursing facility that fails to comply with the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(Z) (relating to the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard)" after "Bloodborne Pathogens standard"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking "(a)(1)(U)" and inserting "(a)(1)(V)"; and

(ii) by inserting "(or, in the case of a failure to comply with the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(Z), for a violation of the Workplace Violence Prevention standard referred to in such subsection by a hospital or skilled nursing facility, as applicable, that is subject to the provisions of such Act)" before the period at the end.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of issuance of the interim final standard on workplace violence prevention required under section 101.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 13, beginning on line 6, amend subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

(C) AVAILABILITY OF PLAN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each Plan shall be—

(I) made available at all times to the covered employees who are covered under such Plan; and

(II) to the extent possible, emailed to each such employee upon completion of the employee's annual training under paragraph (3)(A).

(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to serve in lieu of training or any other requirements under this Act.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Chair, my amendment No. 1 requires employers covered by the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act to make their organization's workplace violence prevention plans available to their employees through email and other methods.

Before I proceed, I want to thank Mr. COURTNEY for bringing this matter to our attention. What I didn't say to Mr. COURTNEY before now is that, 27 years ago, I came to this institution as a Member of the House of Representatives. Either the second or third measure that I proposed dealt with workplace violence, and it is this long that we are finally addressing this in a meaningful way.

This is a short and simple amendment that will help employees covered under the legislation stay familiar and comfortable with their organization's plans for preventing workplace violence.

H.R. 1309 requires the Department of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard for certain employers in the healthcare and social service sectors.

The standard requires them to develop and implement comprehensive plans for protecting their employees from workplace violence. These plans are specifically tailored to workplaces and their employees on a case-by-case basis and are important tools for identifying and mitigating risks.

As a part of the requirements for these plans, H.R. 1309 requires employers to provide comprehensive training

on these plans to employees and to make their workplace violence prevention plans available to their employees at all times.

My amendment, which is cosponsored by my good friend and colleague, Congressman DESAULNIER, expands on this specific requirement and requires employers to share their plans with their employees through email and other methods, following the completion of their annual training.

Doing so would ensure that, in addition to the other training and guidance provided by their employers, employees have access to their own digital copies of their organization's violence prevention plans. Having this access will permit them greater flexibility to access and review these important documents as they feel necessary.

This is a commonsense amendment that will make it easier for covered employees to feel comfortable with their organization's workplace violence prevention plans.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment is unnecessary. The underlying bill already mandates that each workplace violation prevention plan required by the bill "be made available at all times" to covered employees. This amendment adds yet another overly prescriptive requirement on healthcare establishments.

OSHA, as it proceeds with its rule-making, should have the ability to determine the specific elements required of each employer after analyzing their effectiveness and potential cost.

Ultimately, H.R. 1309 circumvents the longstanding, established OSHA rulemaking process, which is intended to research thoroughly the underlying circumstances that may merit a health and safety regulation and gather meaningful stakeholder input in order to create the most feasible and protective safety and health standard possible.

□ 1015

By dodging the established regulatory process, H.R. 1309 is foreclosing other potential solutions. H.R. 1309 will require OSHA to enforce an interim final standard in healthcare and social service settings within a year. The legislation does not allow OSHA to consider important information, such as the experience of California which has a brand-new standard in place, the views of experts in the field, and the input of workers who have invaluable workplace experience.

H.R. 1309 discounts the complexity of the underlying issue and the importance of the knowledge and experience stakeholders can offer that will help create a workable and effective solution.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Chair, I close by reiterating that this amendment is a short and uncontentious proposal to help covered employees feel comfortable with their organization's workplace violence prevention plans.

By requiring employers to make their organization's workplace violence prevention plans available through email and other methods, this amendment would ensure that employees have access to their own digital copies of their organization's plans. Having this access will permit employees greater flexibility to access and review these important documents as they feel necessary.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, line 23, strike "and".

Page 11, line 25, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 11, after line 25, insert the following: (V) to provide employees with information about available trauma and related counseling.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Chair, my amendment requires that healthcare workers and social service workers are provided with information on available mental health resources, trauma, and related counseling.

It is appalling that those who dedicate their lives to caring for people in need suffer workplace violence at disproportionately high rates across the Nation. In 2018, healthcare and social service workers were four times as likely to suffer a serious workplace violence injury than workers overall.

Between 2013 and 2016, one in four registered nurses and nursing students reported being physically assaulted at work by a patient or a patient's family member. And in 2017, State government healthcare and social service workers were almost 10 times more likely to be injured by an assault than private-sector healthcare workers.

Some, tragically, do not survive these incidents. Yesterday, I spoke about a former constituent, Donna Kay Gross of Concord, California, who was a psychiatric technician at Napa State Hospital in California.

She was brutally murdered by a patient outside the unit where she worked. She chose to go into this field and work as a technician because of a history of mental health in her family, and her mother was at Napa State Hospital.

Her story, unfortunately, is not completely unique. A few years ago here in Washington, Mindy Blandon, a registered nurse, was working in the surgical oncology unit when a patient she was treating became agitated. As Mindy and another nurse approached the bedside, the patient became combative.

At the end of an extended scuffle, the patient strangled Mindy with her own stethoscope. Luckily, Mindy survived with the support of her other staff, but the trauma she went through will forever affect her.

Workplace violence has serious physical and emotional consequences for workers and employers alike. While H.R. 1309 includes provisions for workers' medical care as part of the underlying bill, we must also address the psychological effects of workplace violence. Survivors of workplace violence are at an increased risk of long-term emotional problems and post-traumatic stress disorders which can be debilitating, lead to lost days of work, deteriorate productivity and morale, and sometimes even end workers' careers.

The high turnover that results weakens our Nation's healthcare workforce that is already stretched thin and discourages good people from entering these professions.

I am proud that California has led the way in preventing and responding to workplace violence against healthcare workers, including requiring the mental health service information that this amendment provides.

There is a clear need for these services. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18,400 workers in the private industry experienced trauma from nonfatal workplace violence in 2017. Of those victims who experience trauma from workplace violence, 71 percent worked in the healthcare and social assistance industry.

This amendment would bring the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act in line with the California law by ensuring that healthcare and social service workers are provided with critical information on trauma and related counseling for employees after a violent incident.

Madam Chair, I urge support for the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, this amendment adds yet another overly prescriptive regulatory requirement on healthcare providers, small and large, without going through the established rulemaking process.

This amendment provides no opportunity for OSHA to examine whether the requirements listed in the amendment would be beneficial and useful. The provision in this amendment could be examined during a small business stakeholder panel and a public comment period if OSHA were permitted to engage in these important steps before issuing an interim final rule.

We still need additional research and data to identify the best ways to mitigate and prevent workplace violence in healthcare and social service settings. There have been calls for additional research on the project, including from the Government Accountability Office and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Democrat amendments to the bill, such as the one we are debating, do not change these basic facts. Democrat window-dressing amendments that add more red tape don't change the fact that H.R. 1309 fails to allow for the development of a workable, effective, and feasible workplace violence prevention standard.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my distinguished friend.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Chair, I am pleased to rise in support of my colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER's amendment to H.R. 1309.

As my good friend knows, I was planning to introduce an amendment that was virtually identical to his, and so I was happy to make this a combined effort and support his amendment as a cosponsor.

As has already been explained, this amendment would require employers to provide information about trauma and trauma-related counseling for employees in their reporting, incident response, and post-incident investigation procedures.

Doing so would ensure that employees have access to this vital information in the wake of incidents involving workplace violence. I think this is an important consideration as we consider this legislation responding to high rates of workplace violence.

Our Nation's caregivers, including nurses, social workers, and many others working in the healthcare and social service sectors, suffer workplace violence injuries at far higher rates than in any other profession.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after section 1 and insert the following:

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In a 2016 report entitled, “Workplace Safety and Health: Additional Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence”, the Government Accountability Office estimated over 730,000 cases of health care workplace assaults over the 5-year span from 2009 through 2013, based on Bureau of Justice Statistics data.

(2) The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the health care and social service industries experience the highest rates of injuries caused by workplace violence. Nurses, social workers, psychiatric, home health, and personal care aides are all at increased risk for injury caused by workplace violence.

(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that health care and social service workers suffered 71 percent of all workplace violence injuries caused by persons in 2017 and are more than 4 times as likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers overall.

(4) According to a September 2018 survey of 3,500 American emergency physicians conducted by the American College of Emergency Physicians, 47 percent of emergency room doctors have been physically assaulted at work, and 8 in 10 report that this violence is affecting patient care.

(5) Workplace violence in health care and social service sectors is increasing. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that private sector injury rates of workplace violence in health care and social service sectors increased by 63 percent between 2006 and 2016.

(6) Studies have found that proper staff education and the use of evidence based interventions (such as effective communication with patients using de-escalation techniques and noncoercive use of medications) can reduce the risks to the safety of both patients and staff, using least-restrictive measures.

(7) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 2015 updated its “Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers”, however, this guidance is not enforceable.

(8) Nine States have mandated that certain types of health care facilities implement workplace violence prevention programs. On April 1, 2018, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the State of California issued a comprehensive standard (“Workplace Violence Prevention in Health Care”) that requires health care facilities to implement a workplace violence prevention plan.

(9) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) received two petitions for rulemaking in July of 2016, calling on OSHA to promulgate a violence prevention standard for health care and social service sectors. On December 6, 2016, OSHA issued a Request for Information (RFI) soliciting information on this issue. On January 10, 2017, OSHA conducted a public meeting to receive stakeholder input and to supplement the online comments submitted in response to the RFI. At that meeting, OSHA announced it accepted the petitions and would develop a Federal standard to prevent workplace violence in health care and social service settings. OSHA’s spring 2019 regulatory

agenda listed a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act Panel for Prevention of Workplace Violence in Health Care and Social Assistance.

SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Table of contents.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

Sec. 101. Final standard.

Sec. 102. Scope and application.

Sec. 103. Requirements for workplace violence prevention standard.

Sec. 104. Rules of construction.

Sec. 105. Other definitions.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Sec. 201. Application of the workplace violence prevention standard to certain facilities receiving Medicare funds.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

SEC. 101. FINAL STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a final standard on workplace violence prevention—

(1) to require certain employers in the healthcare and social service sectors, and certain employers in sectors that conduct activities similar to the activities in the healthcare and social service sectors, to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan to protect health care workers, social service workers, and other personnel from workplace violence; and

(2) that may be based on the Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor in 2015 and adhere to the requirements of this title.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF STANDARD.—The final standard shall—

(1) take effect on a date that is not later than 60 days after promulgation, except that such final standard may include a reasonable phase-in period for the implementation of required engineering controls that take effect after such date; and

(2) be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)).

(c) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.—

(1) DURING RULEMAKING.—During the period beginning on the date the Secretary commences rulemaking under this section and ending on the effective date of the final standard promulgated under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall engage in an educational campaign for covered employees and covered employers regarding workplace violence prevention in health care and social service industries on the materials of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on workplace violence prevention for such industries.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF FINAL STANDARD.—Beginning on the date on which the final standard is promulgated under this section, the Secretary shall engage in an educational campaign for covered employees and covered employers on the requirements of such final standard.

SEC. 102. SCOPE AND APPLICATION.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FACILITY.—The term “covered facility” means a facility with respect to

which the Secretary determines that requirements of the final standard promulgated under section 101(a) would be reasonably necessary or appropriate, and which may include:

(A) Any hospital, including any specialty hospital.

(B) Any residential treatment facility, including any nursing home, skilled nursing facility, hospice facility, and long-term care facility.

(C) Any medical treatment or social service setting or clinic at a correctional or detention facility.

(D) Any community-based residential facility, group home, and mental health clinic.

(E) Any psychiatric treatment facility.

(F) Any drug abuse or substance use disorder treatment center.

(G) Any independent freestanding emergency centers.

(H) Any facility described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) operated by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) COVERED SERVICES.—The term “covered service” includes the following services and operations:

(A) Any services and operations provided in home health care, home-based hospice, and home-based social work.

(B) Any emergency medical services and transport, including such services when provided by firefighters and emergency responders.

(C) Any services described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) performed by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(D) Any other services and operations the Secretary determines should be covered under the standards promulgated under section 101.

(3) COVERED EMPLOYER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered employer” includes a person (including a contractor, subcontractor, or a temporary service firm) that employs an individual to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “covered employer” does not include an individual who privately employs a person to perform covered services for the individual or a friend or family member of the individual.

(4) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term “covered employee” includes an individual employed by a covered employer to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

SEC. 103. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD.

Each standard described in section 101 may include the following requirements:

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of promulgation of the final standard under section 101(a), a covered employer shall develop, implement, and maintain a written workplace violence prevention plan for covered employees at each covered facility and for covered employees performing a covered service on behalf of such employer, which meets the following:

(A) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—Each Plan shall—

(i) subject to subparagraph (D), be developed and implemented with the meaningful participation of direct care employees and, where applicable, employee representatives, for all aspects of the Plan;

(ii) be applicable to conditions and hazards for the covered facility or the covered service, including patient-specific risk factors and risk factors specific to each work area or unit; and

(iii) be suitable for the size, complexity, and type of operations at the covered facility or for the covered service, and remain in effect at all times.

(B) PLAN CONTENT.—Each Plan shall include procedures and methods for the following:

(i) Identification of each individual or the job title of each individual responsible for implementation of the Plan.

(ii) With respect to each work area and unit at the covered facility or while covered employees are performing the covered service, risk assessment and identification of workplace violence risks and hazards to employees exposed to such risks and hazards (including environmental risk factors and patient-specific risk factors), which may be—

(I) informed by past violent incidents specific to such covered facility or such covered service; and

(II) conducted with—

(aa) representative direct care employees;

(bb) where applicable, the representatives of such employees; and

(cc) the employer.

(iii) Hazard prevention, engineering controls, or work practice controls to correct, in a timely manner, hazards that the employer creates or controls which—

(I) may include security and alarm systems, adequate exit routes, monitoring systems, barrier protection, established areas for patients and clients, lighting, entry procedures, staffing and working in teams, and systems to identify and flag clients with a history of violence; and

(II) shall ensure that employers correct, in a timely manner, hazards identified in the annual report described in paragraph (5) that the employer creates or controls.

(iv) Reporting, incident response, and post-incident investigation procedures, including procedures—

(I) for employees to report to the employer workplace violence risks, hazards, and incidents;

(II) for employers to respond to reports of workplace violence;

(III) for employers to perform a post-incident investigation and debriefing of all reports of workplace violence with the participation of employees and their representatives; and

(IV) to provide medical care or first aid to affected employees.

(v) Procedures for emergency response, including procedures for threats of mass casualties and procedures for incidents involving a firearm or a dangerous weapon.

(vi) Procedures for communicating with and educating of covered employees on workplace violence hazards, threats, and work practice controls, the employer's plan, and procedures for confronting, responding to, and reporting workplace violence threats, incidents, and concerns, and employee rights.

(vii) Procedures for ensuring the coordination of risk assessment efforts, Plan development, and implementation of the Plan with other employers who have employees who work at the covered facility or who are performing the covered service.

(viii) Procedures for conducting the annual evaluation under paragraph (6).

(C) AVAILABILITY OF PLAN.—Each Plan shall be made available at all times to the covered employees who are covered under such Plan.

(D) CLARIFICATION.—The requirement under subparagraph (A)(i) shall not be construed to require that all direct care employ-

ees and employee representatives participate in the development and implementation of the Plan.

(2) VIOLENT INCIDENT INVESTIGATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after a workplace violence incident, of which a covered employer has knowledge, the employer shall conduct an investigation of such incident, under which the employer shall—

(i) review the circumstances of the incident and whether any controls or measures implemented pursuant to the Plan of the employer were effective; and

(ii) solicit input from involved employees, their representatives, and supervisors, about the cause of the incident, and whether further corrective measures (including system-level factors) could have prevented the incident, risk, or hazard.

(B) DOCUMENTATION.—A covered employer shall document the findings, recommendations, and corrective measures taken for each investigation conducted under this paragraph.

(3) EDUCATION.—With respect to the covered employees covered under a Plan of a covered employer, the employer shall provide education to such employees who may be exposed to workplace violence hazards and risks, which meet the following requirements:

(A) Annual education includes information on the Plan, including identified workplace violence hazards, work practice control measures, reporting procedures, record keeping requirements, response procedures, and employee rights.

(B) Additional hazard recognition education for supervisors and managers to ensure they can recognize high-risk situations and do not assign employees to situations that predictably compromise their safety.

(C) Additional education for each such covered employee whose job circumstances has changed, within a reasonable timeframe after such change.

(D) Applicable new employee education prior to employee's job assignment.

(E) All education provides such employees opportunities to ask questions, give feedback on such education, and request additional instruction, clarification, or other followup.

(F) All education is provided in-person or online and by an individual with knowledge of workplace violence prevention and of the Plan.

(G) All education is appropriate in content and vocabulary to the language, educational level, and literacy of such covered employees.

(4) RECORDKEEPING AND ACCESS TO PLAN RECORDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each covered employer shall—

(i) maintain at all times records related to each Plan of the employer, including workplace violence risk and hazard assessments, and identification, evaluation, correction, and education procedures;

(ii) maintain for a minimum of 5 years—

(I) a violent incident log described in subparagraph (B) for recording all workplace violence incidents; and

(II) records of all incident investigations as required under paragraph (2)(B); and

(iii) make such records and logs available, upon request, to covered employees and their representatives for examination and copying in accordance with section 1910.1020 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and in a manner consistent with HIPAA privacy regulations (defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-9(b)(3))) and part 2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as such part is in effect on the date of enactment of this part), and ensure that any such records and

logs removed from the employer's control for purposes of this clause omit any element of personal identifying information sufficient to allow identification of any patient, resident, client, or other individual alleged to have committed a violent incident (including the person's name, address, electronic mail address, telephone number, or social security number, or other information that, alone or in combination with other publicly available information, reveals such person's identity).

(B) VIOLENT INCIDENT LOG DESCRIPTION.—Each violent incident log—

(i) shall be maintained by a covered employer for each covered facility controlled by the employer and for each covered service being performed by a covered employee on behalf of such employer;

(ii) may be based on a template developed by the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date of promulgation of the standards under section 101(a);

(iii) may include a description of—

(I) the violent incident (including environmental risk factors present at the time of the incident);

(II) the date, time, and location of the incident, names and job titles of involved employees;

(III) the nature and extent of injuries to covered employees;

(IV) a classification of the perpetrator who committed the violence, including whether the perpetrator was—

(aa) a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(bb) a family or friend of a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(cc) a stranger;

(dd) a coworker, supervisor, or manager of a covered employee;

(ee) a partner, spouse, parent, or relative of a covered employee; or

(ff) any other appropriate classification;

(V) the type of violent incident (such as type 1 violence, type 2 violence, type 3 violence, or type 4 violence); and

(VI) how the incident was addressed;

(iv) not later than 7 days, depending on the availability or condition of the witness, after the employer learns of such incident, shall contain a record of each violent incident, which is updated to ensure completeness of such record;

(v) shall be maintained for not less than 5 years; and

(vi) in the case of a violent incident involving a privacy concern case as defined in section 1904.29(b)(7) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), shall protect the identity of employees in a manner consistent with that section.

(C) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—Each covered employer shall prepare an annual summary of each violent incident log for the preceding calendar year that shall—

(i) with respect to each covered facility, and each covered service, for which such a log has been maintained, include the total number of violent incidents, the number of recordable injuries related to such incidents, and the total number of hours worked by the covered employees for such preceding year;

(ii) be completed on a form provided by the Secretary;

(iii) be posted for three months beginning February 1 of each year in a manner consistent with the requirements of section 1904 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), relating to the posting of summaries of injury and illness logs;

(iv) be located in a conspicuous place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted; and

(v) not be altered, defaced, or covered by other material by the employer.

(5) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—Each covered employer shall conduct an annual written evaluation, conducted with the full, active participation of covered employees and employee representatives, of—

(A) the implementation and effectiveness of the Plan, including a review of the violent incident log; and

(B) compliance with education required by each standard described in section 101, and specified in the Plan.

(6) ANTI-RETALIATION.—

(A) POLICY.—Each covered employer shall adopt a policy prohibiting any person (including an agent of the employer) from discriminating or retaliating against any employee for reporting, or seeking assistance or intervention from, a workplace violence incident, threat, or concern to the employer, law enforcement, local emergency services, or a government agency, or participating in an incident investigation.

(B) ENFORCEMENT.—Each violation of the policy shall be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as a violation of section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 660(c)) is enforced.

SEC. 104. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 667)—

(1) nothing in this title shall be construed to curtail or limit authority of the Secretary under any other provision of the law; and

(2) the rights, privileges, or remedies of covered employees shall be in addition to the rights, privileges, or remedies provided under any Federal or State law, or any collective bargaining agreement.

SEC. 105. OTHER DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “workplace violence” means any act of violence or threat of violence, that occurs at a covered facility or while a covered employee performs a covered service.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “workplace violence” does not include lawful acts of self-defense or lawful acts of defense of others.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—The term “workplace violence” includes an incident involving the threat or use of a firearm or a dangerous weapon, including the use of common objects as weapons, without regard to whether the employee sustains an injury.

(2) TYPE 1 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 1 violence”—

(A) means workplace violence directed at a covered employee at a covered facility or while performing a covered service by an individual who has no legitimate business at the covered facility or with respect to such covered service; and

(B) includes violent acts by any individual who enters the covered facility or worksite where a covered service is being performed with the intent to commit a crime.

(3) TYPE 2 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 2 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by customers, clients, patients, students, inmates, or any individual for whom a covered facility provides services or for whom the employee performs covered services.

(4) TYPE 3 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 3 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by a present or former employee, supervisor, or manager.

(5) TYPE 4 VIOLENCE.—The term “type 4 violence” means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by an individual who is not an employee, but has or is known to have had a personal relationship with such employee.

(6) ALARM.—The term “alarm” means a mechanical, electrical, or electronic device

that can alert others but does not rely upon an employee’s vocalization in order to alert others.

(7) ENGINEERING CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “engineering controls” means an aspect of the built space or a device that removes or minimizes a hazard from the workplace or creates a barrier between a covered employee and the hazard.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of reducing workplace violence hazards, the term “engineering controls” includes electronic access controls to employee occupied areas, weapon detectors (installed or handheld), enclosed workstations with shatter-resistant glass, deep service counters, separate rooms or areas for high-risk patients, locks on doors, removing access to or securing items that could be used as weapons, furniture affixed to the floor, opaque glass in patient rooms (which protects privacy, but allows the health care provider to see where the patient is before entering the room), closed-circuit television monitoring and video recording, sight-aids, and personal alarm devices.

(8) ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “environmental risk factors” means factors in the covered facility or area in which a covered service is performed that may contribute to the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—Environmental risk factors may be associated with the specific task being performed or the work area, such as working in an isolated area, poor illumination or blocked visibility, and lack of physical barriers between individuals and persons at risk of committing workplace violence.

(9) PATIENT-SPECIFIC RISK FACTORS.—The term “patient-specific risk factors” means factors specific to a patient that may increase the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident, including—

(A) a patient’s psychiatric condition, treatment and medication status, history of violence, and known or recorded use of drugs or alcohol; and

(B) any conditions or disease processes of the patient that may cause the patient to experience confusion or disorientation, to be non-responsive to instruction, or to behave unpredictably.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(11) WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “work practice controls” means procedures and rules that are used to effectively reduce workplace violence hazards.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “work practice controls” includes assigning and placing sufficient numbers of staff to reduce patient-specific Type 2 workplace violence hazards, provision of dedicated and available safety personnel such as security guards, employee training on workplace violence prevention method and techniques to de-escalate and minimize violent behavior, and employee training on procedures for response in the event of a workplace violence incident and for post-incident response.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

SEC. 201. APPLICATION OF THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD TO CERTAIN FACILITIES RECEIVING MEDICARE FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1866 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (X), by striking “and”

at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (X), by striking at the end the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (Y) the following new subparagraph:

“(Z) in the case of hospitals that are not otherwise subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (or a State occupational safety and health plan that is approved under 18(b) of such Act) and skilled nursing facilities that are not otherwise subject to such Act (or such a State occupational safety and health plan), to comply with the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard (as promulgated under section 101 of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act).”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and a hospital or skilled nursing facility that fails to comply with the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(Z) (relating to the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard)” after “Bloodborne Pathogens Standard”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “(a)(1)(U)” and inserting “(a)(1)(V)”; and

(ii) by inserting “(or, in the case of a failure to comply with the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(Z), for a violation of the Workplace Violence Prevention standard referred to in such subsection by a hospital or skilled nursing facility, as applicable, that is subject to the provisions of such Act)” before the period at the end.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of issuance of the final standard on workplace violence prevention required under section 101.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me be clear: protecting workers from workplace violence is a policy priority that Republicans and Democrats see eye to eye on. American workers should be kept out of harm’s way on the job so they can return home to their families every day healthy and safe.

Republicans and Democrats appreciate the hard work and empathy that healthcare workers and community caregivers demonstrate every single day on the job. Their dedication to caring for the most vulnerable members of our communities is extraordinary. And these workers deserve our gratitude, our respect, and our commitment to ensuring that they are safe on the job.

Today, we can do right by them by working together to address the critical need for protection and the prevention of violence in the workplace. Impactful legislation is possible in an effective and bipartisan manner, but I echo Ranking Member Foxx’s observation that this bill is simply the wrong approach.

While H.R. 1309 stands no chance of becoming law, I believe we have a real opportunity here to advance legislation that could be enacted and provide the protections for workers we all desire.

The amendment that I am proposing today recognizes that OSHA, having noted the hazards and risks that exist with healthcare workers, is currently advancing the rulemaking process to address this important issue.

This amendment would ensure that the regulated community has an opportunity to provide meaningful comments on a workplace violence prevention standard which will inform an effective and workable final regulation before the agency begins enforcement, and it calls on OSHA to convene the already planned Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel before proceeding with the rulemaking process to allow small businesses the opportunity to comment on regulatory text.

Finally, the amendment would require OSHA to conduct an educational campaign on workplace violence prevention in the healthcare and social service industries.

This commonsense amendment acknowledges and supports the work already underway and protects this progress so that they can further propel solutions to workplace violence.

Addressing workplace violence prevention is crucial. The Obama administration delayed action on this issue and first made moves to initiate a rulemaking process in the final year of President's Obama's 8-year tenure.

Meanwhile, the Department of Labor is working on workplace violence prevention rulemaking as we speak, and as I said, has initiated the panel scheduled for January.

We agree there is work to be done, but H.R. 1309 is not the answer. I ask my colleagues to support my amendment so we can make real, meaningful steps toward protecting American workers in this industry, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, again, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but certainly with great respect for the proponent. I actually supported making this amendment in order because I have such high regard for the gentleman.

However, this amendment, essentially, Madam Chair, guts the bill.

The essence of this bill is to say to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, who has been studying this issue since the 1990s and has issued commonsense guidelines—that again, Ranking Member FOXX has touted as an example of how this isn't a real problem that we need to accelerate, but the fact of the matter is, we incorporate those guidelines in the underlying bill with a real deadline, 42 months. That has precedent.

Congress has done this before. OSHA is an act of Congress, and we have accelerated deadlines for bloodborne pathogens back in the late 1990s, gave them a 1-year deadline or a 6-month deadline to implement a standard, again, for HIV, hepatitis B, and C, in healthcare. And thank God. We are a safer country because Congress stepped in and set a deadline for OSHA to act.

We did it for hazardous waste materials. We put a deadline to make them act. Without a deadline, what we are stuck with is OSHA's atrocious record of getting rules out in a timely fashion. Beryllium, 18 years it took; silica, 19 years. If you inhale silica, you suffocate and get cancer; confined spaces in construction, working in trenches, 22 years.

And, yes, yesterday, the Trump administration, for the third time, scheduled a preliminary panel with the SBREFA panel, having canceled the prior two. We are 3 years into this administration, and still, to this date, nothing actually has happened other than notices, which so far have just been canceled over and over again.

□ 1030

Madam Chair, while we were here on the floor, one of the most credible voices on this issue, which is the American College of Emergency Physicians—when these unruly, agitated patients with the heroin and opioid crises and behavioral health crises are coming through the doors, they are the ones who are really at the front line, along with the nurses and their assistants. They urge legislators to oppose the Byrne amendment that would eliminate the deadline for OSHA to issue a standard.

The reason they give is that, in 2018, they did a survey of emergency physicians all across America who reported being physically assaulted while at work, with 60 percent of those assaults occurring within the previous year. This is happening in real time, and it is accelerating. The trajectory is something that we cannot wait for OSHA to basically go back and reinvent the wheel that they have already issued in terms of guidelines about how to reduce risk in workplaces.

That is why, in addition to other issues in this amendment that eliminate the whistleblower protection, as well as the interim final standard, which, again, incorporates OSHA's already preexisting rules, that I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Let's move forward, and let's do it in a timely fashion for America's healthcare and social services workforce.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I return the gentleman's respect, and I know that he has worked long and hard on this. I agree with him that this is a real problem that is getting worse, but we are not going to make it better if we pass something in this House that will not get up on the floor of the Senate and won't be signed by the President. We know it won't.

I would suggest to the gentleman that this vehicle is how we actually get something passed and do something for the workers that we care so much about.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, the gentleman is absolutely right. The Obama administration took too long to move on this. Again, I, along with George Miller, requested the GAO study back in 2013. The results came in, in 2016. He is right. The first regulatory step didn't take place until January 2017, on the way out the door.

But we are 3 years into this administration, and they are not setting the world on fire in terms of addressing this issue. That panel, which you described, to call it a baby step is an overstatement. It is a baby crawl, in terms of this process. Again, we have seen the track record—22 years, 19 years, 17 years—to get a standard out.

Our healthcare workforce cannot wait that long. That is why H.R. 1309 should proceed without the Byrne amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I close by saying this. We need to do something. If we don't enact my amendment, we are going to end up doing nothing, and I think something is better than nothing.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 23, line 23, strike "and".
Page 24, line 2, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 24, after line 2, insert the following:
(3) nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or prevent health care workers, social service workers, and other personnel from reporting violent incidents to appropriate law enforcement.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, my amendment is going to ensure that nothing in this act

shall be construed to limit or prevent healthcare workers from reporting violent incidents to appropriate law enforcement.

This is really critical because, obviously, this amendment is going to really put some new restrictions on workplace violence. It is so critical to ensure we do that. But we also want to make sure that there are safeguards in place to make sure that reporting is not only going to the law enforcement agencies but also around the rest of the community. That is why our amendment is so critical here.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment underscores two obvious points: first, that healthcare and social service workers should be free to report workplace violence incidents to law enforcement; and second, that this bill was drafted poorly.

Such a commonsense provision should not need to be added to the underlying legislation. But in the Democrats' rush to force OSHA to promulgate workplace violence prevention standards, they are bypassing key elements of the established rulemaking process that would ensure a provision such as this amendment, if needed, is in the regulatory text.

H.R. 1309 circumvents the long-standing, established OSHA rulemaking process, which is intended to gather information on the underlying circumstances that may merit a health and safety regulation and to receive meaningful stakeholder input in order to create the most feasible and protective safety and health standard possible.

By dodging the established regulatory process, the Democrats are ignoring or unaware of many key issues like the ones addressed in this amendment.

Madam Chair, I will support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) for yielding.

Again, I want to salute his amendment. For the record, there is no prohibition built into OSHA that you can't have dual jurisdiction, in terms of criminal investigations or prosecutions from injuries in any setting that OSHA covers. However, I still applaud the Member for just sort of foot-stomping this point to make sure that because so many of these incidents involve as-

sault, there is absolutely a clear signal that there is no hindrance or obstacle.

Again, for that purpose, I certainly strongly support the amendment and urge its adoption.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 19, insert "anti-retaliation policies," after "response procedures,".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chair, my amendment ensures that our incredible healthcare and social service workers are aware that they are legally protected from retaliation by their employers.

I begin by thanking my colleague, Congressman JOE COURTNEY, for his hard work on this outstanding bill, and Chairman SCOTT for leading this issue and bringing the bill to the floor today.

Healthcare and social service workers are some of this country's most precious workers, taking care of us and our loved ones, sometimes under some of the most trying conditions imaginable.

H.R. 1309 will help protect these workers by requiring employers in the healthcare and social service sectors to develop workplace violence prevention plans. My amendment will require that mandatory violence prevention plan trainings include the critical information that these workers, when faced with any violent or unwanted behavior in the workplace, can safely report the incident without fear of retaliation.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data tell us that private-sector injury rates from workplace violence in healthcare and social service sectors increased 63 percent between 2006 and 2016, in just a decade. And due to underreporting, injury rates and workplace violence are widely assumed to be higher than the reported levels.

This is a huge problem for workers but also for those they care for, as vio-

lence in healthcare settings compromises quality of care. We cannot expect healthcare and social service workers to be able to deliver essential lifesaving services under the threat of violence and assault and fear of repercussions for reporting any incident that may occur.

The same goes for social service workers. A safe and violence-free workplace is essential to a functioning social service system that will help our communities thrive. We cannot expect workers to come forward with reports of violence if they fear retribution.

My straightforward amendment aims to ensure that healthcare and social service workers covered by this bill are aware of their right to come forward and report any incident of violence at work without fear of retribution.

Madam Chair, let me add that this is really personal for me. I don't want to reveal my age, but I started organizing healthcare workers for SEIU in 1983, and I remember my very first campaign at Shore Haven Nursing Home in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Some of the workers in the nursing home did face violence on the job, and they really had no way to handle it. So Mr. COURTNEY's bill, his leadership on this, is so essential for all the health and social service workers of the country.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment is yet another example of Democrats assuming bad motives on the part of American employers and handcuffing them with additional, overly prescriptive micro-management from Washington.

The vast majority of employers in America follow the laws, take good care of their employees, respect their rights in the workplace, and do not need more red tape imposed on them. Yet this amendment adds additional requirements on America's small businesses without receiving any meaningful input from them or other stakeholders.

Democratic amendments, such as the one we are debating, do not change the basic fact that H.R. 1309 is already overly prescriptive and forecloses important input from knowledgeable stakeholders.

H.R. 1309 will require OSHA to enforce an interim final standard in healthcare and social service settings within a year. This legislation does not allow OSHA to consider important information, including the experience of California, which has a brand-new standard in place; the views of experts in the field; and the input of workers who have invaluable workplace experience. This data and evidence and the

views of stakeholders may very well not align with the bill's requirements.

Adopting H.R. 1309 discounts the complexity of the underlying issue and the importance of the knowledge and experience stakeholders can offer.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chair, I am sure we can all agree that retribution for people reporting violence in the workplace is something that is important, that people should not face retribution, that they should not fear reporting when they personally or their coworkers face violence on the job. So I hope that we will have broad support for this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1045

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland) having assumed the chair, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1309) 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, had come to no resolution thereon.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1838.—An act to amend The Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710.—An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland). Pursuant to House Resolution 713 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1309.

Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1047

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R.

1309) 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, with Ms. JACKSON LEE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 116-302 offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 5, after "(4)(C)." insert the following: "Not later than May 15 of each year, the Secretary shall provide to Congress a report containing statistical data with respect to, and a summary of, reports submitted to the Secretary under this paragraph. The contents of the report of the Secretary shall not disclose any confidential information."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I am proud to be a sponsor of H.R. 1309 for a multiplicity of reasons, and I thank Mr. COURTNEY for introducing this legislation.

Madam Chair, I am proud to tell you also that within my congressional district in Houston, Texas, we have the largest medical center in the world.

Madam Chair, annually, the Houston Medical Center encounters 10 million patients. The Houston Medical Center also, Madam Chair, has 106,000 employees. The Houston Medical Center is 17 times larger than the average city in the United States of America.

We understand the scope of this problem, and there is a problem. But, sometimes, problems are not best explained with statistical information. Sometimes, the words of people can make the difference in understanding a problem.

I have within my hand a letter from the National Nurses United organization. Hear now their words:

Violence on the job has become endemic for RNs and other workers in healthcare and social assistance settings. Nurses report being punched, kicked, bitten, beaten, and threatened with violence as they provide care to others. Far too many have experienced stabbing and shootings.

Madam Chair, the evidence is overwhelming. We do have a problem. To understand the scope of the problem, you have to have some intelligence ac-

corded some repository so that it can be properly assessed. The Secretary of Labor will be the repository. We will get the information to the Secretary.

But this is not enough, to merely have the Secretary of Labor have the sense of what the scope is. The buck stops with Congress. Congress needs to know the scope of the problem. If changes are necessary and not being made, the buck stops with us. We will have to encounter this, and we will have to take up our duty, responsibility, and obligation to provide the proper legislation.

With this understanding, we have filed amendment No. 6. This amendment understands that the Secretary will receive the information, and then this amendment would require the Secretary to annually report to Congress so that Congress will have the transparency that the Secretary has so that Congress may take appropriate action when necessary. Understanding the scope of the problem helps you understand the scope of a necessary solution, if there is one.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I claim the time in opposition, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, it is very disturbing to me as a citizen of this country, to hear the talk about increasing incidents of violence. We know that is occurring all over our country, everywhere. However, this bill is not going to respond to the underlying causes of that increased violence, and neither will this amendment.

This amendment ignores the fundamental reason that employers maintain good recordkeeping. It allows employers to review their internal procedures and determine how to improve their safety culture. While it is very important for facilities to keep accurate records of incidents, responses to incidents, and annual data, providing this information annually to OSHA will not result in greater safety benefits.

Requiring the Secretary of Labor to provide this data to Congress goes yet another ill-advised step further. Employers utilize these records to improve internal management processes in order to protect their workplace. However, if they must submit these reports to OSHA, which will, in turn, provide them to Congress, this will discourage the use of these records to make improvements, as the employer has no guarantee the records will not be released by OSHA either intentionally or unintentionally.

Workplace violence records must be maintained and protected onsite as they contain personal employee information as well as patient-client information. An OSHA inspector would still have the right to review the records upon inspection of the facility.

Again, this amendment's provisions and the underlying recordkeeping and

reporting provisions in H.R. 1309 should be thoroughly vetted and discussed during a true rulemaking process and should not be mandated by Congress. We definitely should be looking at the underlying reasons that workplace violence is increasing, and neither this bill nor this amendment will have any impact on that.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, may I inquire what time is remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, the gentlewoman from North Carolina and I are very dear friends, and I have great respect for her. In fact, I have a deep, abiding affinity for her humanity.

But, today, I am reminded of the words of Ruth Smeltzer. Ruth Smeltzer reminds us that:

Some measure their lives by days and years. Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears; But the surest measure under the Sun. Is what in your lifetime for others you have done.

Madam Chair, this day provides us an opportunity to do something for others who are in harm's way, who are caregivers, and who are doing what they can to provide the kind of healthcare services that we need. They do it at great risk. We are the people who can minimize that risk. It is our responsibility to do for others what we would have others do for us. If I were a healthcare worker, I would want Congress to take this kind of appropriate action to protect me.

I also would remind my colleagues that if we do nothing, at some point, we will find people reluctant to go into this area of endeavor. Who wants to go to work with the fear of being harmed?

I love my dear lady from North Carolina, but we respectfully disagree. The buck stops here.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, after line 7, insert the following:

(D) Additional training shall be provided for each such covered employee whose job circumstances require working with victims of torture, trafficking, or domestic violence.

Page 15, line 8, redesignate subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E).

Page 15, line 11, redesignate subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F).

Page 15, line 15, redesignate subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G).

Page 15, line 23, redesignate subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I want first to recognize the hard work of my colleague from Connecticut, Congressman JOE COURTNEY, on the underlying bill and for making workplace safety a priority.

Workplace violence is a serious problem and occurs more often than we may realize. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, incidents of serious workplace violence were 12 times higher among healthcare and social service workers, and 70 percent of nonfatal workplace assaults occurred in the healthcare and social assistance sectors.

Nurses, physicians, emergency responders, medical assistance, and social workers care for our families in our times of need, and violence against them has reached epidemic proportions.

The range of patients, clients, and demands these workers encounter on any given day can expose them to occupational risks with little training on what they should do if those interactions turn violent.

With uneven Federal enforcement, States are leading the way to address this issue, establishing a process for recording, responding to, and tracking incidents of workplace violence and requiring regular workplace violence prevention training.

Similarly, the underlying bill addresses training needs for employees who may be exposed to workplace violence, hazards, and risks. However, each situation is not always the same. Not all circumstances and patients are the same. We must adjust our training to reflect all communities and situations that professionals may face on the job.

My amendment ensures additional training for employees who work with victims of torture, human trafficking, and domestic violence. As a result of trauma, many survivors develop emotional and mental health problems that require timely, comprehensive, and compassionate treatment, even if the situation involved physical or psychological assaults.

□ 1100

These factors necessitate a different approach from our medical professionals and must be a part of workplace violence trainings, particularly in healthcare settings.

Proper training on best practices like de-escalation can help ensure the safety of both the patient and the healthcare worker. In doing so, we can prevent further trauma that could be detrimental to the survivors' recovery.

I have long been a champion for survivors of abuse and will continue to do so. Safe work environments and quality care are mutually reinforcing; both must be considered in order to promote positive outcomes for patients in our communities.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I seek time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, while the amendment is well-intentioned, there are Federal agencies other than OSHA that would be better equipped to handle this type of regulatory requirement for the education of healthcare workers who work with the individuals identified in the amendment.

The question of whether employer education programs governed by OSHA are appropriate to address the objectives of the amendment should be thoroughly vetted and discussed during the rulemaking process before decisions impacting employers are made.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1309 bypasses the opportunities for that conversation to take place, such as a small business panel and public hearings, and this amendment does nothing to change that.

A question of additional education for specific employees is exactly the kind of issue that should be addressed by receiving feedback from affected stakeholders in the rulemaking process, but this opportunity is foreclosed by H.R. 1309.

Amendments like the one we are debating don't change the fact that H.R. 1309 fails to allow for the development of a feasible and effective workplace violence prevention standard.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, again I rise in strong support of Mr. BROWN's amendment, which I think makes a good bill even better and does focus on one of the causes, which, again, it is no big secret in terms of what is driving this upward trajectory.

Domestic violence, in particular, is one of those types of cases that are coming through the emergency room doors—agitated patients, sometimes family members there—and that is where, again, we know nurses, nursing assistants, and docs are being subjected to unprecedented levels of assault.

That is why the Emergency Room Nurses Association just issued an endorsement of H.R. 1309. Again, this is a trade association. This is a union-affiliated organization. They represent emergency room nurses all across

America in union and nonunion settings.

We have already heard earlier today that the emergency room docs have come out for this.

Again, what Mr. BROWN's measure does is focus on one of the causes that is causing the unprecedented and unacceptable levels of assault that are taking place in healthcare settings.

I just want to close by saying my wife, Audrey, whom I have been married to for 30 years, is a pediatric nurse practitioner who works in a specialty clinic at Connecticut Children's Hospital that deals with victims of child sexual abuse and physical abuse, and that is precisely the type of patient that Mr. BROWN's amendment is focused on.

Again, if you want to talk about high tension, high-risk environment in terms of those types of cases that come through, which, again, is causing unprecedented incidents out there, this amendment helps those employees to make sure that they are going to be able to deal with these cases and continue to go on and be productive in the healthcare system.

So, again, I want to thank Mr. BROWN for offering this amendment.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 16, redesignate paragraph (7) as paragraph (8).

Page 22, after line 15, insert the following:

(7) PLAN UPDATES.—Each covered employer shall incorporate changes to the Plan, in a manner consistent with paragraph (1)(A)(i) and based on findings from the most recent annual evaluation conducted under paragraph (6), as appropriate.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Chair, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1309, introduced by my colleague, Congressman JOE COURTNEY.

This bill requires the Secretary of Labor to develop a comprehensive workplace safety and health standard. Ultimately, this legislation will protect the millions of workers in the healthcare and social service industries by implementing a violence prevention plan.

Prevention plans and training are critical tools to mitigate dangerous

situations if and when violent emergencies occur in the workplace. Clear and effective plans that address violence prevention benefit both the workers and their patients or clients; and violence prevention plans catered to the respective industries, using evidence-based practices, are even more effective.

In the healthcare and social service industries especially, workplace safety reforms are much-needed.

Social workers, like healthcare workers, are particularly vulnerable and susceptible to instances of workplace violence. Workers in both of these professions interact daily with people struggling with mental health, addiction, and/or recovering from trauma.

Madam Chair, let me just tell you, personally, that I have been impacted by this. I am a former social worker. I will tell this quick story.

I went to make a home visit. I was a geriatric social worker at the time. It was in a house, a shutdown house right down Lyons and Jensen.

I believe, Madam Chair, that is in your district now.

I knocked on the door, and to my surprise and shock and fear, a little old lady—she was probably about 85 or 90—comes out with a gun pointing right at my face, pointing right at my face.

That is not what a social worker expects when they are coming to visit a home to make plans for a home healthcare aide, which is what I was doing.

But she thought that I was there to take a child away from her that she had in her home and that I was a child welfare worker, so she was defending her son. Actually, it was a street child.

I had to convince her with every persuasive part of my body that I was not there to take her child, that I was actually there to help her and give her a home health aide to help her in her home. And quite miraculously, I talked her out of it, and I actually got her to put the gun away.

Now, I was lucky, but, regrettably, those things may still be happening out there in America: a social worker facing a gun, a social worker facing violence, a social worker facing harm or injury to herself or others.

So that is what this bill is about. It is not about what the employers will or will not do; it is about the protection of the workers and making sure that the employers do have plans, much like they do for hurricanes, that they have plans for violence.

So all employees, regardless of the line of work, deserve to feel safe and not feel the fear that I did that day and to be protected from violence in their workplaces.

They also deserve to have peace of mind that an informed violence prevention plan is in place. With that in mind, I am proud to offer an amendment to an already excellent bill.

My amendment would ensure that annual evaluations of violence preven-

tion plans include changes based on informed findings by employers. Employers can use their personal experiences or lessons learned to effectively update the violence prevention plan in their mandatory annual plan reviews.

Simply put, the goal of this amendment is to enhance the participation and protection of covered employers and employees in the creation of updating their annual plans. This is a commonsense amendment intended to implement best practices.

Employer input, along with employee input, will create the best violence prevention plans possible. It will also help industries update their prevention plans, as needed, to cater to that specific industry's needs.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. First, Madam Chair, I would like to express my condolences to our colleague for the situation that she found herself in with the person she was trying to help. No one wants to be in that kind of situation, and I am very sorry that it has happened.

But this amendment is just another example that H.R. 1309 was poorly drafted, rushed, and not well thought out. The provisions and requirements relating to the details of maintaining a workplace violence prevention plan should be thoroughly vetted during the rulemaking process.

In the established rulemaking process, stakeholders can comment on what provisions should be included in the final standard. This allows for robust evaluation of what provisions ultimately help create the most feasible and protective safety and health standard possible.

We all share in the common goal of preventing workplace violence in healthcare and social service settings. We need to trust that the rulemaking process will result in the most protective standard possible.

Healthcare professionals deserve the right to comment on a highly complex and new standard. This amendment does not address the underlying concerns with the bill.

Democrat amendments to the bill, such as the one we are debating, do not change these basic facts. This bill is unworkable in its current form, and this amendment doesn't change the fact that H.R. 1309 fails to allow for the development of a workable, effective, and feasible workplace violence prevention standard.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Chair, I accept the condolences, but, fortunately for me, I was under threat but did not die. Regrettably, that situation

may happen again and someone may die, and that is what I just want to underscore is that social workers, healthcare workers, all social service workers are put in danger many times.

This bill and this amendment would simply make sure that we got participation and input from the employers, the employees, and everyone concerned to make sure that we have a good plan and that we use best practices, because, regrettably, not much seems to have changed since the days when I was a social worker.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 23, line 23, strike “and”.

Page 24, line 2, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 24, after line 2, insert the following:

(3) nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or diminish any protections in relevant Federal, State, or local law related to—

- (A) domestic violence;
- (B) stalking;
- (C) dating violence; and
- (D) sexual assault.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

My amendment to H.R. 1309 is a clarifying amendment to ensure that nothing in this act shall be construed to limit or diminish any existing protections in relevant Federal, State, or local law related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, or sexual assault.

According to a 2016 OSHA report, approximately 75 percent of the nearly 25,000 workplace assaults reported each year occur in healthcare and social service settings, and workers in healthcare settings are four times more likely to be assaulted at work than workers in other sectors.

These cases have led to psychological trauma, not only for the victim, but also for those who have witnessed these attacks, as well as serious injury and even death.

□ 1115

With workplace violence on the rise, it is vital that Congress address this issue to ensure the safety of workers, and that is why this bill is so important.

While most incidents of workplace violence fit the definition of simple assault, a study by the Joint Commission showed that sexual assault, rape, and stalking are not uncommon. Approximately 38 States include rape, sexual assault, and stalking in their definition of domestic violence.

My amendment makes it clear that nothing in the underlying legislation preempts or diminishes these protections in any way.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, less than 30 percent of U.S. workplaces have a formal program or policy that addresses workplace violence, and 7 out of 10 workplaces do not have formal domestic violence programs or policy. That means that more than 70 percent of U.S. workplaces have inadequate protections against workplace violence.

Innova Health Systems, one of the major healthcare providers in Northern Virginia, recently conducted a survey at their hospital in my district on the incidence and cost of nurse workplace violence perpetrated by hospital patients or patient visitors. The results showed that 75 percent of nurses experienced violence within the past year, with emergency nurses experiencing significantly greater number of incidents. Nurses reported many barriers to reporting these incidents, including unclear reporting policies, fear of retaliation, and the disheartening perception that violence just comes with the job.

These statistics show that the current voluntary efforts to prevent workplace violence are not working. The results of the Innova survey highlight a real need for effective training and clear, convenient reporting programs and environments that support workers who are experiencing violence. This bill seeks to address this need.

As a former domestic violence prosecutor, I have seen firsthand how laws protect and provide valuable resources to the more than 12 million individuals who are survivors of violent crime. I offer this amendment to ensure that it is abundantly clear that workplace violence prevention plans developed under this bill complement existing legal protections against domestic violence and sexual assault and in no way diminishes or limit those protections.

It is crucial that our laws at the State, Federal, and local levels continue to help and support victims of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault, which is precisely what my amendment does.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment is yet another

well-intentioned addition to a flawed bill. A provision this obvious should have been included in the underlying text, but Democrats are unnecessarily rushing through this legislation even though OSHA is working on a rule-making.

What other seemingly obvious provisions or considerations are left out of the bill that are not being offered as amendments today? And which mandates included in the bill are unworkable, costly and ill-advised? These questions are exactly why the established regulatory process solicits necessary feedback from stakeholders and the public.

H.R. 1309 circumvents a longstanding established OSHA rulemaking process, which is intended to research thoroughly the underlying circumstances and gather meaningful stakeholder input in order to create the most feasible and protective safety and health standards possible.

By dodging the established regulatory process, H.R. 1309 will miss key issues like the ones addressed in this amendment. This bill is unworkable in its current form, and Democrat amendments don't change the fact that H.R. 1309 fails to allow for the development of a workable, effective, and feasible workplace violence prevention standard.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Chair, I simply request that my colleagues support this underlying amendment and the underlying bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 13, strike “and”.

Page 2, line 20, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 2, after line 20, insert the following:

(C) that provides for a period determined appropriate by the Secretary, not to exceed 1 year, during which the Secretary shall prioritize technical assistance and advice consistent with section 21(d) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 670(d)) to employers subject to the standard with respect to compliance with the standard.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from New

York (Mr. DELGADO) and a Member opposite each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to first thank my colleague, Congressman COURTNEY, for his leadership on this bill, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. This is long overdue legislation to protect our Nation's caregivers, including nurses and physicians and many others who dedicate their lives to healing.

Workplace violence is far too common in facilities that are supposed to be places of rehabilitation, treatment, and therapy. Last year the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that healthcare and social service workers were over four times as likely to suffer a serious injury from workplace violence than workers in other sectors.

The legislation we are considering today would make an important improvement in workplace safety by defining workplace violence as any act or threat of force against an employee that could result in physical injury, psychological trauma, or stress and ensure that OSHA and employers develop and implement comprehensive and workplace-specific plans to prevent such violence.

These plans will not only protect employees but also keep patients, visitors, and those in medical facilities out of harm's way. We all deserve to feel protected in hospitals and social service settings, and this bill would accomplish that.

However, to facilitate these plans, we need to work in partnership with employers and businesses to ensure that they have the proper resources and information to comply with these protection plans.

My amendment seeks to strengthen this legislation by prioritizing technical assistance for employers during the first year of the bill's implementation being enacted. This business-friendly amendment will work to ensure our employers are equipped with the tools to better protect their employees and prevent workplace violence.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our healthcare and social service facilities across the country and include my amendment to strengthen the underlying bill.

Let's stand with our Nation's employees and employers to make our workplaces safer for everyone.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment is simply more window dressing on a flawed bill.

While technical assistance is welcome and appropriate, this amendment places an arbitrary time limit that is woefully insufficient to cope with the flawed rule, and there is no telling how short an unfriendly administration might allow this needed advice period to last.

Moreover, technical assistance after employers are subject to a rule in which they had no input is too little too late. Rather than amend a flawed bill by allowing the Department of Labor to help businesses after they are subject to a flawed rule, we should reject this bill and instead allow OSHA to pursue its established rulemaking process that provides ample opportunity for feedback from stakeholders and the public before they are subject to another Washington regulation.

Democrat amendments to the bill, such as the one we are debating, do not change the basic fact that H.R. 1309 is overly prescriptive and circumvents the established rulemaking process, failing to allow for the development of a workable, effective, and feasible workplace violence prevention standard.

This amendment should be defeated. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, again, I want to congratulate Mr. DELGADO for his amendment.

And I want to point out the fact that when we voted on the rule yesterday, there was a self-effectuating provision that eliminated 500,000 healthcare workplaces from the scope of this bill. Again, it was at the suggestion of CBO because, frankly, it was never our intention to include doctors' offices, podiatrists' offices, dentists' offices. That is not what this bill is about. It is about larger healthcare facilities, which we know are the hotspots where this type of unfortunate activity goes on.

OSHA, just so you know, has a free consultation program for employers, 90 percent funded by OSHA in all 50 states, that will provide free assistance as new rules and regulations are rolled out.

And I want to again say, Mr. DELGADO's amendment, which just foot stomps the fact that we want to prioritize the flow of information is, in my opinion, a very benign request and very much sensitive to employers in facilities all across the country.

Again, we took care of the small guys in the rule yesterday, and this amendment, again, just makes sure that anyone else will have all the help that they need to understand the new rules.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I just want to piggyback on that, if I may, and say, with over 27,000 small businesses in my district, it is a priority of mine. As somebody who is a part of the Small Business Committee, I take very seriously the ways in which our gov-

ernment is able to aid and not frustrate the workings of our local economy.

I would like to, once again, thank Congressman COURTNEY for introducing this critical legislation, and I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 116-302 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. BYRNE of Alabama.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. HARDER of California.

Amendment No. 9 by Ms. WEXTON of Virginia.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. DELGADO of New York.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 238, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 637]

AYES—177

Abraham	Brooks (AL)	Crawford
Aderholt	Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw
Allen	Buchanan	Curtis
Amash	Buck	Davidson (OH)
Amodei	Bucshon	Davis, Rodney
Armstrong	Budd	DesJarlais
Arrington	Burchett	Diaz-Balart
Babin	Burgess	Duncan
Bacon	Byrne	Dunn
Baird	Calvert	Emmer
Balderson	Carter (GA)	Estes
Banks	Chabot	Ferguson
Barr	Cheney	Fleischmann
Bergman	Cline	Foxx (NC)
Bilirakis	Cole	Fulcher
Bishop (NC)	Collins (GA)	Gaetz
Bishop (UT)	Comer	Gallagher
Bost	Conaway	Gianforte
Brady	Cook	Gibbs

Gohmert	Lesko	Rouzer	Pingree	Schneider	Titus	Burgess	Gosar	Maloney,
Gonzalez (OH)	Long	Rutherford	Plaskett	Schrader	Tonko	Bustos	Gottheimer	Carolyn B.
González-Colón	Loudermilk	Scalise	Pocan	Schrier	Torres (CA)	Butterfield	Granger	Maloney, Sean
(PR)	Lucas	Schweikert	Porter	Scott (VA)	Torres Small	Byrne	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Gooden	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin	Pressley	Scott, David	(NM)	Carlyle	Graves (LA)	Marshall
Granger	Marchant	Sensenbrenner	Price (NC)	Sewell (AL)	Trahan	Carbajal	Graves (MO)	Mast
Graves (GA)	Marshall	Shimkus	Quigley	Shalala	Trone	Cárdenas	Green (TN)	Matsui
Graves (LA)	Mast	Simpson	Raskin	Sherman	Underwood	Carson (IN)	Green, Al (TX)	McAdams
Graves (MO)	McAdams	Smith (MO)	Reed	Sherrill	Upton	Carter (GA)	Griffith	McBath
Grothman	McCarthy	Smith (NE)	Rice (NY)	Sires	Van Drew	Carter (TX)	Grijalva	McCarthy
Guest	McCaul	Smucker	Rose (NY)	Slotkin	Vargas	Cartwright	McCaul	McCaul
Guthrie	McClintock	Spano	Rouda	Smith (NJ)	Veasey	Case	McClintock	McClintock
Hagedorn	McHenry	Steil	Roy	Smith (WA)	Vela	Casten (IL)	Guest	McCollum
Harris	McKinley	Steube	Roybal-Allard	Soto	Velázquez	Castor (FL)	Guthrie	McGovern
Hern, Kevin	Meadows	Stewart	Ruiz	Spanberger	Visclosky	Castro (TX)	Haaland	McHenry
Herrera Beutler	Meuser	Stewart	Ruppersberger	Speier	Wasserman	Chabot	Hagedorn	McKinley
Hice (GA)	Miller	Taylor	Rush	Stanton	Schultz	Cheney	Harder (CA)	McNerney
Higgins (LA)	Mitchell	Thompson (PA)	Ryan	Stauber	Waters	Chu, Judy	Harris	Meadows
Hill (AR)	Moolenaar	Thornberry	Sablan	Stefanik	Watson Coleman	Cicilline	Hartzler	Meeks
Holding	Mooney (WV)	Tipton	San Nicolas	Stevens	Welch	Cisneros	Hastings	Meng
Hollingsworth	Mullin	Turner	Sánchez	Suozzi	Wexton	Clark (MA)	Heck	Meuser
Hudson	Murphy (NC)	Wagner	Sarbanes	Swallow (CA)	Wild	Clarke (NY)	Miller	Miller
Huizenga	Newhouse	Walberg	Scanlon	Takano	Wilson (FL)	Clay	Hern, Kevin	Mitchell
Hunter	Norman	Walden	Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth	Cleaver	Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar
Hurd (TX)	Nunes	Walker	Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Young	Cline	Hice (GA)	Mooney (WV)
Johnson (LA)	Olson	Walorski				Cloud	Higgins (LA)	Morelle
Johnson (OH)	Palazzo	Waltz				Clyburn	Higgins (NY)	Mucarsel-Powell
Johnson (SD)	Palmer	Watkins	Aguilar	Fudge	Radewagen	Cohen	Hill (AR)	Mullin
Jordan	Pence	Weber (TX)	Bishop (GA)	Gabbard	Reschenthaler	Cole	Himes	Murphy (FL)
Joyce (OH)	Perry	Webster (FL)	Cárdenas	Griffith	Richmond	Collins (GA)	Holding	Murphy (NC)
Joyce (PA)	Posey	Wenstrup	Carter (TX)	Huffman	Serrano	Comer	Hollingsworth	Nadler
Keller	Ratcliffe	Westerman	Cooper	Lewis	Stivers	Conaway	Horn, Kendra S.	Napolitano
Kelly (MS)	Rice (SC)	Williams	Evans	McEachin	Timmons	Connolly	Horsford	Neal
Kelly (PA)	Riggleman	Wilson (SC)	Flores	Moulton	Tlaib	Cook	Houlihan	Neguse
King (NY)	Roby	Wittman				Correa	Hoyer	Newhouse
Kinzinger	Rodgers (WA)	Womack				Costa	Hudson	Norcross
Kustoff (TN)	Roe, David P.	Woodall				Courtney	Huizenga	Norman
LaHood	Rogers (AL)	Wright				Cox (CA)	Hunter	Norton
LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)	Yoho				Craig	Hurd (TX)	Nunes
Lamborn	Rooney (FL)	Zeldin				Crawford	Jackson Lee	O'Halleran
Latta	Rose, John W.					Crenshaw	Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez

NOES—238

Adams	DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick
Allred	Deutch	Krishnamoorthi
Axne	Dingell	Kuster (NH)
Barragán	Doggett	Lamb
Bass	Doyle, Michael	Langevin
Beatty	F.	Larsen (WA)
Bera	Engel	Larson (CT)
Beyer	Escobar	Lawrence
Biggs	Eshoo	Lawson (FL)
Blumenauer	Españillat	Lee (CA)
Blunt Rochester	Finkenauer	Lee (NV)
Bonamici	Fitzpatrick	Levin (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	Fletcher	Levin (MI)
F.	Fortenberry	Lieu, Ted
Brindisi	Foster	Lipinski
Brown (MD)	Frankel	Loeb sack
Brownley (CA)	Gallego	Lofgren
Bustos	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Butterfield	Garcia (IL)	Lowe y
Carbajal	Garcia (TX)	Luján
Carson (IN)	Golden	Luria
Cartwright	Gomez	Lynch
Case	Gonzalez (TX)	Malinowski
Casten (IL)	Gosar	Maloney,
Castor (FL)	Gottheimer	Carolyn B.
Castro (TX)	Green (TN)	Maloney, Sean
Chu, Judy	Green, Al (TX)	Massie
Cicilline	Grijalva	Matsui
Cisneros	Haaland	McBath
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	McCollum
Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	McGovern
Clay	Hastings	McNerney
Cleaver	Hayes	Meeks
Cloud	Heck	Meng
Clyburn	Higgins (NY)	Moore
Cohen	Himes	Morelle
Connolly	Horn, Kendra S.	Mucarsel-Powell
Correa	Horsford	Murphy (FL)
Costa	Houlihan	Nadler
Courtney	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cox (CA)	Jackson Lee	Neal
Craig	Jayapal	Neguse
Crist	Jeffries	Norcross
Crow	Johnson (GA)	Norton
Cuellar	Johnson (TX)	O'Halleran
Cunningham	Kaptur	Ocasio-Cortez
Davids (KS)	Katko	Omar
Davis (CA)	Keating	Pallone
Davis, Danny K.	Kelly (IL)	Panetta
Dean	Kennedy	Pappas
DeFazio	Khanna	Pascarell
DeGette	Kildee	Payne
DeLauro	Kilmer	Perlmutter
DelBene	Kim	Peters
Delgado	Kind	Peterson
Demings	King (IA)	Phillips

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (GA)	Fudge	Radewagen
Cárdenas	Gabbard	Reschenthaler
Carter (TX)	Griffith	Richmond
Cooper	Huffman	Serrano
Evans	Lewis	Stivers
Flores	McEachin	Timmons
	Moulton	Tlaib

□ 1156

Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. PLASKETT, Messrs. GOSAR, O'HALLERAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Messrs. VAN DREW, CARSON of Indiana, STANTON, SCHRADER, LAWSON of Florida, and ROSE of New York changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. WALDEN and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 414, noes 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 638]

AYES—414

Abraham	Banks	Bost
Adams	Barr	Boyle, Brendan
Aderholt	Barragán	F.
Allen	Bass	Brady
Allred	Bera	Brindisi
Amash	Bergman	Brooks (AL)
Amodei	Beyer	Brooks (IN)
Armstrong	Biggs	Brown (MD)
Arrington	Billirakis	Brownley (CA)
Axne	Bishop (NC)	Buchanan
Babin	Bishop (UT)	Buck
Bacon	Blumenauer	Bucshon
Baird	Blunt Rochester	Budd
Balderson	Bonamici	Burchett

Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Sewell (AL)
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spano
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Stewart
 Suozzi

Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood
 Upton
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden

Walker
 Walorski
 Waltz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watkins
 Watson Coleman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Wright
 Yarmuth
 Yoho
 Young
 Zeldin

Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cartwright
 Casten (IL)
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chabot
 Cheney
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Comer
 Conaway
 Connolly
 Cook
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cox (CA)
 Craig
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Cunningham
 Curtis
 Davids (KS)
 Davidson (OH)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny K.
 Davis, Rodney
 Dean
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 DesJarlais
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael F.
 Duncan
 Dunn
 Emmer
 Engel
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espaillat
 Estes
 Ferguson
 Finkenauer
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fletcher
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Foxx (NC)
 Frankel
 Fulcher
 Gaetz
 Gallagher
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 García (IL)
 García (TX)
 Gianforte
 Gibbs
 Goldman
 Golden
 Gomez
 Gonzalez (OH)
 Gonzalez (TX)
 Gonzalez-Colón (PR)
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Gottheimer
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Green, Al (TX)

Griffith
 Grijalva
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Haaland
 Hagedorn
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings
 Hayes
 Heck
 Hern, Kevin
 Herrera Beutler
 Hice (GA)
 Higgins (LA)
 Higgins (NY)
 Hill (AR)
 Himes
 Holding
 Hollingsworth
 Horn, Kendra S.
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Huizenga
 Hunter
 Hurd (TX)
 Jackson Lee
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson (SD)
 Johnson (TX)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Keller
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Khanna
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kim
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger
 Kirkpatrick
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster (NH)
 Kustoff (TN)
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamb
 Lamborn
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 Lawrence
 Lawson (FL)
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NV)
 Lesko
 Levin (CA)
 Levin (MI)
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loebsack
 Lofgren
 Long
 Loudermilk
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan
 Luria
 Lynch
 Malinowski
 Maloney,
 Carolyn B.
 Maloney, Sean
 Marchant
 Marshall
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Shimkus
 Simpson

McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McNeary
 Meadows
 Meeks
 Meng
 Meuser
 Miller
 Mitchell
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Morelle
 Mucarsel-Powell
 Mullin
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (NC)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Newhouse
 Norcross
 Norman
 Norton
 Nunes
 O'Halleran
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olson
 Omar
 Palazzo
 Pallone
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters
 Peterson
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Plaskett
 Pocan
 Porter
 Posey
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Rice (NY)
 Rice (SC)
 Rigglesman
 Roby
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney (FL)
 Rose (NY)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouda
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Sablan
 San Nicolas
 Sánchez
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Sewell (AL)
 Shalala
 Cárdenas
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Case

Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spano
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Stewart
 Suozzi
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood
 Upton
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Waltz

Wasserman
 Tipton
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watkins
 Watson Coleman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Wright
 Yarmuth
 Yoho
 Young
 Zeldin

NOES—1

Massie
 NOT VOTING—21

Aguilar
 Beatty
 Bishop (GA)
 Cooper
 Evans
 Flores
 Moore
 Fudge

Omar
 Radewagen
 Reschenthaler
 Richmond
 Serrano
 Stivers
 Timmons

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1202

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 415, noes 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 639]

AYES—415

Abraham
 Adams
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Allred
 Amash
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Axne
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Banks
 Barr
 Barragán

Bass
 Beatty
 Bera
 Bergman
 Beyer
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (NC)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blumenauer
 Axne
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Bost
 Balderson
 F. Brady
 Brindisi

Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Brown (MD)
 Brownley (CA)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Budd
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Carabajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson (IN)

Chabot
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cox (CA)
 Craig
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Cunningham
 Carvajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Case

Casten (IL)
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael F.
 Engel
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espaillat
 Finkenauer
 Fitzpatrick
 Fletcher
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Frankel

NOES—1

Massie
 NOT VOTING—20

Aguilar
 Bishop (GA)
 Case
 Cooper
 Evans
 Flores
 Fudge

Gabbard
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Lewis
 McEachin
 Moore
 Moulton

□ 1208

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 176, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 640]

AYES—242

Adams
 Allred
 Axne
 Bacon
 Barragán
 Bass
 Beatty
 Bera
 Beyer
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Bost
 Boyle, Brendan F.
 Brindisi
 Brown (MD)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Carvajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Case

Casten (IL)
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Delgado
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cox (CA)
 Craig
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Cunningham
 Carson (IN)
 Davidson (OH)
 Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny K.
 Davis, Rodney
 Dean
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael F.
 Engel
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espaillat
 Finkenauer
 Fitzpatrick
 Fletcher
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Frankel

Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski

Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Morelle
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sablan

San Nicolas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schraeder
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Stevens
Suoizzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer

Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spano
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner

Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—18

Aguilar
Bishop (GA)
Cooper
Evans
Flores
Fudge

Gabbard
Huffman
Lewis
McEachin
Moore
Moulton

Radewagen
Reschenthaler
Richmond
Serrano
Stivers
Timmons

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1214

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PAYNE). There being no further amendments under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) having assumed the chair, Mr. PAYNE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1309) 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, and, pursuant to House Resolution 713, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I am in its current form.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1309 to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE III—SENSE OF CONGRESS

SEC. 301. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the current House majority has failed to deliver results for the American people on critical issues facing our Nation by prioritizing impeachment of the President over working with the administration and Republicans in Congress to enact policies such as the following:

(1) An Act implementing the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

(2) The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2020.

(4) Legislation to secure operational control of the southern border.

(5) Bipartisan legislation to lower prescription drug prices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as we get ready to leave the House today and go home for Thanksgiving, I think it has been alarming that, as we read the newspapers, as we listen, we find that so many families are not going to be celebrating Thanksgiving together because of the political divide that is taking place, not only here on the floor of the people's House, but in our homes.

It is incredible to me that we have allowed our political rhetoric to divide not only Republicans and Democrats on the floor, but also our families back home. This has never happened before in the Speaker's House. We should never have this happening on the floor.

Now, look, I know that we have differences of opinions. The relentless pursuit to delegitimize the election of Donald Trump has taken over any activity that should be taking place on the floor of the people's House.

Madam Speaker, as we stand here in the House, on the floor of the people's House, and we get ready to depart for Thanksgiving celebration, it is hard to imagine what it is that this majority has in mind when it comes to legislation because we are not doing legislation. We have concentrated on impeachment.

Now, I would ask all Members to recommit, and recommit for the purposes that the American people elected us: to do legislation that makes sense, to do legislation that is long overdue, to do legislation that is critical, to do legislation that makes sense for every single American.

I appeal to you, not as a Republican, but as an American.

Have we left this floor and decided that we can no longer work together? Because the American people are drawing that conclusion.

NOES—176

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook

Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Foxy (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
González-Colón
(PR)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga

Hunter
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)

And when I go home, they say to me: Can't you all agree on anything?

And I say: Yes, we can.

Madam Speaker, we have wasted precious time and millions of hardworking American taxpayer dollars on a pursuit of an effort to impeach a President of the United States. We have done nothing to legislate and to act in the best interest of every American.

I would ask again that we look at what we are doing as Americans and not as Republicans or Democrats, because the people back home can't understand why it is that they sent us here to do what we are not doing today. Why? Why are we not doing it?

Madam Speaker, at some point, I would hope and pray that the greatest nation the world has ever known, the defenders of liberty and freedom all over the world, could take a look and see what we are doing right now and ask: What is the message we are sending to the rest of the world?

Really? America is caught up in an effort to impeach the duly elected President of the United States? And why? Because we have been so consumed with hate that we can no longer see straight.

Look, why are we not passing the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, which is a jobs bill?

Why are we not passing the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, which is critical to our safety?

Why are we not passing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act?

Madam Speaker, I appreciate you, but I am going to ask my colleagues to please extend to me the same respect that I extend to you.

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I would, Madam Speaker, but I don't think the other side is interested in hearing what I have to say.

Madam Speaker, we also have not passed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. Can you believe we are that irresponsible?

Legislation to secure operational control of our southern border, we are not doing that.

And we are not doing bipartisan legislation to lower prescription drug prices and handle surprise billings and preexisting conditions.

Why are we not doing those things that are the most important things to our citizens back home?

I would ask that we look into what we are doing and if we are doing it strictly for political purposes and in a power grab. That is not why the American people sent us here. That is not why the majority on the floor of the House changed during the last election.

But now people are seeing exactly what happens when the majority switches up, and when I go home, people ask me: Why aren't you doing something about what is happening in Congress today?

I say: You know what. That was America's choice, not ours. When we are in the majority, we are able to govern.

Madam Speaker, I would like to sincerely wish all of our colleagues a happy Thanksgiving. God bless America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I insist on my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized on his point of order.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of America's nurses, doctors, and social workers who are begging for relief from unprecedented levels of workplace violence, I insist upon my point of order. The motion violates clause 7 of rule XVI, the germaneness rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Connecticut makes a point of order that the instructions proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania are not germane.

Clause 7 of rule XVI, the germaneness rule, provides that no proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

The bill addresses Department of Labor standards for workplace violence prevention and Medicare eligibility based on those standards. The instructions in the motion express the sense of Congress with respect to the prioritization of certain legislative items.

The amendment proposed in the motion to recommit addresses a different subject matter than the subject matter of workplace violence prevention as addressed by the underlying bill. Accordingly, the Chair finds that the instructions propose an amendment that is not confined to the subject matter of the underlying bill. The amendment is not germane and the point of order is sustained.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. HOYER moves to lay the appeal on the table.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if arising without further proceedings in recommittal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 222, noes 188, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 641]

AYES—222

Adams	Gonzalez (TX)	Panetta
Allred	Gottheimer	Pappas
Amash	Green, Al (TX)	Pascrell
Axne	Grijalva	Payne
Barragán	Haaland	Perlmutter
Bass	Harder (CA)	Peters
Beatty	Hastings	Peterson
Bera	Hayes	Phillips
Beyer	Heck	Pingree
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Pocan
Blunt Rochester	Himes	Porter
Bonamici	Horn, Kendra S.	Pressley
Boyle, Brendan	Horsford	Price (NC)
F.	Houlihan	Quigley
Brindisi	Hoyer	Raskin
Brown (MD)	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Brownley (CA)	Jayapal	Rose (NY)
Bustos	Jeffries	Rouda
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)	Roy
Carbajal	Johnson (TX)	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Case	Kennedy	Ryan
Casten (IL)	Khanna	Sánchez
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Castro (TX)	Kilmer	Scanlon
Chu, Judy	Kim	Schakowsky
Cicilline	Kind	Schiff
Cisneros	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kuster (NH)	Schrier
Clay	Lamb	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Langevin	Scott, David
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Sowell (AL)
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Shalala
Connolly	Lawrence	Sherman
Correa	Lawson (FL)	Sherrill
Costa	Lee (CA)	Sires
Courtney	Lee (NV)	Slotkin
Cox (CA)	Levin (CA)	Smith (WA)
Craig	Levin (MI)	Soto
Crist	Lieu, Ted	Spanberger
Crow	Lipinski	Speier
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Stanton
Cunningham	Lofgren	Stevens
Davids (KS)	Lowenthal	Suo zzi
Davis (CA)	Lowey	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny K.	Lujan	Takano
Dean	Luria	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Malinowski	Titus
DeLauro	Maloney,	Tlaib
DelBene	Carolyn B.	Tonko
Delgado	Maloney, Sean	Torres (CA)
Demings	Massie	Torres Small
DeSaulnier	Matsui	(NM)
Deutch	McAdams	Trahan
Dingell	McBath	Trone
Doggett	McCollum	Underwood
Doyle, Michael	McGovern	Van Drew
F.	McNerney	Vargas
Engel	Meeks	Veasey
Escobar	Meng	Vela
Eshoo	Morelle	Velázquez
Espallat	Mucarsel-Powell	Visclosky
Finkenauer	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman
Fletcher	Nadler	Schultz
Foster	Napolitano	Waters
Frankel	Neal	Watson Coleman
Gallego	Neguse	Welch
Garamendi	Norcross	Wexton
Garcia (IL)	O'Halleran	Wild
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wilson (FL)
Golden	Omar	Yarmuth
Gomez	Pallone	

NOES—188

Abraham	Arrington	Banks
Aderholt	Babin	Barr
Allen	Bacon	Bergman
Amodei	Baird	Biggs
Armstrong	Balderson	Bilirakis

Bishop (NC)
 Bishop (UT)
 Bost
 Brady
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Budd
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Calvert
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chabot
 Cheney
 Cline
 Cloud
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Comer
 Conaway
 Cook
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Curtis
 Davidson (OH)
 Davis, Rodney
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duncan
 Dunn
 Emmer
 Estes
 Ferguson
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fortenberry
 Foxx (NC)
 Fulcher
 Gaetz
 Gallagher
 Gianforte
 Gibbs
 Gohmert
 Gonzalez (OH)
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie

NOT VOTING—20

Aguilar
 Bishop (GA)
 Byrne
 Cooper
 Evans
 Flores
 Fudge

□ 1235

So the motion to table was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.
 The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.
 A recorded vote was ordered.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.
 The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 251, noes 158, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 642]
 AYES—251
 Adams
 Allred
 Axne
 Bacon
 Barragan
 Bass
 Beatty
 Bera
 Beyer
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Bost
 Boyle, Brendan F.
 Brindisi
 Brooks (IN)
 Brown (MD)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Carabajal
 Cardenas
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Case
 Casten (IL)
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Cole
 Connolly
 Cook
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cox (CA)
 Craig
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Cunningham
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny K.
 Davis, Rodney
 Dean
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael F.
 Engel
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espallat
 Finkenauser
 Fitzpatrick
 Fletcher
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Frankel
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Golden
 Gomez
 Gonzalez (TX)

NOES—158

Abraham
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Amash
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Babin
 Baird
 Balderson
 Banks
 Barr
 Bergman
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (NC)
 Gottheimer
 Graves (LA)
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Haaland
 Harder (CA)
 Hartzler
 Hastings
 Hayes
 Heck
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins (NY)
 Himes
 Horn, Kendra S.
 Horsford
 Houlahan
 Hoyer
 Hurd (TX)
 Jackson Lee
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Joyce (OH)
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Khanna
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Kind
 King (NY)
 Kirkpatrick
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster (NH)
 Lamb
 Langevin
 Cole
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lawson (FL)
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NV)
 Lesko
 Levin (CA)
 Levin (MI)
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loebsack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Davis, Danny K.
 Lujan
 Luria
 Lynch
 Malinowski
 Maloney,
 Carolyn B.
 Maloney, Sean
 Marchant
 Matsui
 McAdams
 McBath
 McCollum
 McGovern
 McKinley
 McNerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Morelle
 Mucarsel-Powell
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Newhouse
 Norcross
 O'Halleran
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta

Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chabot
 Cheney
 Cline
 Cloud
 Collins (GA)
 Comer
 Conaway
 Crawford
 Curtis
 Davidson (OH)
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duncan
 Dunn
 Emmer
 Estes
 Ferguson
 Fleischmann
 Foxx (NC)
 Fulcher
 Gaetz
 Gallagher
 Gianforte
 Gibbs
 Gohmert
 Gonzalez (OH)
 Gooden
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hagedorn
 Harris
 Hern, Kevin
 Hice (GA)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Holding
 Hollingsworth

NOT VOTING—21

Aguilar
 Bishop (GA)
 Byrne
 Cooper
 Crenshaw
 Evans
 Flores
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gosar
 Huffman
 Lewis
 McEachin
 Moore
 Moulton
 Reschenthaler
 Richmond
 Serrano
 Stivers
 Timmons
 Watkins

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1242

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

□ 1245

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
 Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Senate majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, to bring our bills to the floor.

My House colleagues and I have passed 400 bills this Congress—400. Unfortunately, more than 300 are stuck on MCCONNELL's desk, including 275 bipartisan bills.

These bills include things like raising the minimum wage, protecting retirees, protecting consumers when they sign contracts, and support for our veterans. These are not partisan issues. These are American issues.

Every day, we are trying to do the will of the American people; every day, we fight to make their lives better; yet, every day, our public opinion drops because the people do not see any results.

The time to act is now. The betterment of every American depends on it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE DAVID TAUNTON

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

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge David Taunton, who passed away peacefully at the age of 80 on November 8.

As the longest serving judge in Gulf County, Florida, Judge Taunton will be remembered by many for his unending dedication to children and providing them with a second chance.

Judge Taunton and his wife, Abigail, dedicated their lives to opening a shelter for homeless children. In 1978, the Taunton Family Children's Home welcomed its first child, and since then, over 400 children have called the Taunton Family Children's Home their own. Abigail and the judge made sure that each child was raised as if they were their own child.

Judge Taunton has impacted so many lives through his optimism, unconditional love, and mentorship. In addition to serving as a judge for 20 years, David Taunton served as a logger, a school principal, a church pastor, and an editor of his newspaper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy and life of Judge David Taunton. He will be missed by many.

ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 725

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM:
Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Chair.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous con-

sent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TOGETHER WE FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 5041, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act.

Too many Americans have been injured and too many families have been torn apart by domestic violence. One in four women and one in nine men will experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime. Victims and survivors span all races, backgrounds, genders, and income levels.

Domestic violence is not just a women's issue. That is why I am proud to have introduced FVPSA, with Representatives GWEN MOORE, TOM COLE, and JOHN KATKO.

Though there are centers around the country doing incredible work, too many people still are turned away each day due to lack of resources. Our bill will provide adequate resources for prevention and treatment services.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital bill. Together, we fight for the people, help survivors of domestic violence, and prevent such tragedies in the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FLOYD "BUTCH" VANDIVER

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a dear friend and local leader in my district, former Bailey County Commissioner Floyd "Butch" Vandiver, who is currently battling cancer back home in Muleshoe, Texas.

Butch is the epitome of a servant leader, and he personifies the spirit of west Texas through his honesty, humility, and hard work.

Having operated the family farm for more than 35 years, Butch understands the trials of tilling the soil, the blessings of a bountiful harvest, and the faith and freedom it requires.

During his two decades as a Bailey County commissioner, Butch served with excellence, always putting the interests of the people he served over himself.

I first met Butch on a flight back to Lubbock. He was returning home from treatment at MD Anderson. Clearly fa-

tigued from his fight against cancer, he never once complained. Instead, he encouraged me.

Butch, you inspire me with your authenticity, your humility, and your unwavering faith. I want you to know we love you, we are praying for you and your family, and we know you are in God's loving and capable hands.

God bless, and go west Texas.

LATINA EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday, we observed Latina Equal Pay Day. Latinas across the country made our voices heard, demanding an end to the gender pay gap that affects Latinas the most.

We Latinas are "luchadoras"—fighters. Yet, on average, Latinas make 53 cents to the dollar earned by White, non-Hispanic men. We are talking about our "madres, our abuelitas, our hijas, y tias"—mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and aunts.

Hardworking Latinas deserve better. We should not have to work 23 months to make what White, non-Hispanic men make in 12 months.

We must level the playing field. It is not only the right thing to do, but America works best when women are empowered and treated equally.

I won't stop fighting until Latinas and all women receive equal pay for equal work.

CELEBRATING GEORGE HYAK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise to today to wish Mr. George Hyak of Victoria, Texas, a heartfelt happy 100th birthday and to thank him for his service to our country.

George is an example of a life well lived. He and his precious bride, Sarah, have been married for 71 years, and their family has flourished.

George served our Nation heroically during World War II, storming the beaches of Normandy on D-day, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, and liberating a Nazi concentration camp.

After the war, he returned home and continued operating the Dick's Food Stores in Victoria, which he cofounded. The longevity of the store earned it the Texas Treasure Business Award.

As we look to celebrate Thanksgiving, we as a nation do have a lot to be thankful for, including veterans like George. May Mr. Hyak's life serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

OUR FEDERAL FISCAL HOUSE IS OUT OF ORDER

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, can anyone seriously dispute that our Federal fiscal house is seriously out of order?

Our national debt stands at \$23 trillion, doubling in just the last decade alone. No end is in sight, as we just registered \$1 trillion annual deficit in the last fiscal year, and this fiscal year looks the same or worse. Interest payments alone will exceed defense spending by 2025.

We need look no further than into the mirror for the root cause. It is our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. We clearly need help.

H.R. 5211, the Sustainable Budget Act, reintroduced today with my colleague from Arkansas, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Mr. WOMACK, would follow the models of Simpson-Bowles and other such independent commissions charged with focusing on our debt and recommending a sustainable path forward for an up-or-down vote by Congress.

In that, our bill is similar to other measures I have also reintroduced: H.R. 4907, the TRUST Act, with Representatives GALLAGHER and MCADAMS; and H.R. 5178, the RAFT Act, with Representative BURCHETT. Together, they offer a far better way forward to tackling our debt crisis, and I urge their prompt consideration and passage.

FUNDING FOR PUERTO RICO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, today I rise, and I am pleased to say that the continuing resolution to keep our government open until December 20 extends, once again, the provision of the 2018 BBA to provide Puerto Rico a 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage in the Medicaid program.

However, the time available for an extension is quickly coming to an end. Unless Congress acts quickly to adequately fund this vital program, Puerto Rico will face a \$1 billion shortfall as early as March of 2020, putting in grave jeopardy the 1.1 million American citizens in my district who rely on this program.

This insecurity in funding also makes it impossible to negotiate long-term provider contracts, and it disrupts the ongoing implementation of important transparency and integrity measures.

Without decisive and long-term funding, the progress into stabilizing Puerto Rico's Medicaid program could be reversed as payments to providers would once again fall close to 40 percent Medicare fee schedule and accelerate provider exodus.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to pay for lifesaving hepatitis C medicines

that positively impact the quality of life, while decreasing long-term health costs.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to subsidize dual Medicare B premiums and shift those healthcare costs to Medicare, where they belong.

The lack of a solution for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program, such as the one proposed by the House, could have a ripple effect on our healthcare system.

I urge my colleagues to act on Medicaid provisions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF VERNA CAMPBELL

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of Ms. Verna Campbell, a constituent, beloved mother, grandmother, and eternal fighter for the working class.

Ms. Campbell left us on October 22 but leaves behind a powerful legacy in my community. She was a loving mother to 10 children and step-children, and always worked to support her second family, 1199 SEIU.

Ms. Verna was a long-time delegate for 1199, where she fought for labor rights, fair pay, and dignity for all workers.

She devoted herself to the Staten Island Democratic Association, the Staten Island NAACP, the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus, and the 120th Precinct Council.

Ms. Verna was a founder of the Staten Island African American Political Association and, over the years, has worked to bring African Americans into Staten Island politics.

Ms. Verna also played key roles in electing numerous African Americans to public office throughout her life.

Staten Island and all of New York City will deeply miss Ms. Verna Campbell, but we are all blessed for her membership in our community throughout her lifetime.

□ 1300

HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives this year has had one of the most productive sessions in U.S. history. We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate. Let me just say that again: We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led Senate has not gotten around to letting these bills go for a vote.

Some of these bills include common-sense legislation such as the Violence

Against Women Act reauthorization, the Save the Internet Act, Securing America's Federal Elections Act, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act, the Climate Action Now Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and the Raise the Wage Act. It is time for the do-nothing Republicans to start doing their jobs.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, today is National Rural Health Day.

More than 60 million Americans live in rural areas. Unfortunately, these individuals tend to be in poorer health than those who live in urban and suburban areas. They experience greater rates of chronic disease than the rest of the U.S. population.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is one of these rural areas. Like most rural America, the VI has high rates of chronic disease, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and experience unique challenges in accessing healthcare.

The Virgin Islands, however, due to geographic distance from the contiguous United States and our territorial status, face even further challenges, including inequitable Federal funding. Our health providers and families have to make difficult decisions, not based on care but on distance and funding.

All Americans deserve easy accessibility to high quality healthcare. I want to take this time to recognize the healthcare providers in the Virgin Islands for their tireless work and commitment to the health and well-being of our people.

RECOGNIZING LINDA LAURIA FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-term public servant and New York-14 constituent, Linda Lauria.

On November 30, 2019, Linda Lauria, public affairs specialist, will retire from the Social Security Administration. Linda's retirement will mark the close of a phenomenal 34-year career that spans multiple decades of public service.

Linda began her career with the Social Security Administration in August 1973 as a claims development clerk in the east Bronx Social Security office as a GS-2, as she proudly notes. Linda was subsequently promoted to positions in the field, including service representative and claims representative.

Linda has been instrumental in the timely resolution of several thousand cases, eliminating barriers between our

most vulnerable people and their essential benefits.

Linda's outstanding contributions to the agency have been recognized with several awards, including the Deputy Commissioner Citation and the New York Regional Management Society's Regional Office Employee of the Year. She has also been instrumental in helping my own district team from the very beginning.

Throughout Linda's career, she has brought intelligence, technical savvy, practical knowledge, and a strong commitment to excellence to every assignment.

Today my staff, the Social Security Administration, and I thank Linda for her dedication, passion, and commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING ATLANTICARE

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize AtlantiCare, a major health system in south Jersey for over one century. The group started with one hospital in 1898 and has now expanded to over 100 different locations across the region to fulfill the medical needs of our community.

AtlantiCare improves the health and happiness of the people of south Jersey by providing high-quality medical care, which has recently been celebrated with the Critical Care Gold Beacon Award, the Emergency Nurses Association's Lantern Award, and many more.

Beyond health services, AtlantiCare has been a staple to south Jersey because of their focus on community outreach programs, which are so very important. They have tackled a variety of issues facing our area.

AtlantiCare has installed programs to supply healthy school lunches to children, to bring fresh produce to those struggling with food insecurity, and to provide residency opportunities for local medical school students so that they stay in the area.

In south Jersey we are very lucky to have AtlantiCare's accessible medical services and outreach programs to better our region. I thank AtlantiCare and all the staff and all the volunteers for caring about our community in south Jersey.

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR PRIORITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have worked in the area of criminal justice and juvenile justice for as many years as I have served in the United States Congress.

Dealing with juveniles here in this country and giving them a pathway of opportunity to success has been my dream and goal. I intend to introduce

the Omnibus Juvenile Justice Restoration and Uplift Act.

There are 75 million juveniles, plus, in the United States since 2013. That number has grown. That means that one in four have the possibility of being in the juvenile delinquency system. That should not be tolerated.

My bill will include adding more trained social workers; giving sensitivity training and special training to our law enforcement officers, who really want to be role models; to Ban the Box, so they do not have a lifetime of saying, as a juvenile I was arrested; ending solitary confinement throughout the entire United States for juveniles; alternative sentencing, so that old-fashioned juvenile detention jails can be closed; gang intervention, so that we can find a way for resolution and direction and another way for gang prevention, violence cessation, wrap-around services, closing all juvenile centers over a 10-year period, and finally, conflict resolution.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in introducing this legislation. Our children are our priority.

THE SENATE MUST ACT ON LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the For the People Agenda generated by this House, and I am antithetical to the Senate's provision, which is a for-the-President agenda.

We, the Members of the House, have passed legislation for gun safety. The President has merely talked about it.

We have passed legislation to help with personal and financial security for women. The President says ugly things about women.

We pass legislation that will help the Dreamers. The President is about ending the dream.

We have passed legislation helping those who are being discriminated against in the LGBTQ community. The President ignores this community.

We passed legislation to help with election and democracy security. The President wants to do all that he can to help Putin and those in Russia with their security, ignoring ours.

In our House we have, for the people, passed a bill to increase the minimum wage. The President seems to be antithetical to it. If we have our For the People Agenda and we pass these bills and send them to the Senate, the least that the Senate can do is generate their own version so that these bills may go to a conference committee.

They don't have to have a for-the-President agenda. I am for the people. The Senate is for the President.

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Rural Health Day.

To mark this important day, my colleagues and I will discuss the unique challenges that rural America faces when seeking quality healthcare close to home or as close to home as rural America has it.

I am proud to represent Arizona's First Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Our district is actually larger than the entire State of Illinois, and it is one of the most rural in the country.

This year, I have held 26 town halls across this vast and diverse district. At each and every one I hear from rural residents struggling to access quality healthcare, especially emergency care. Many of my constituents must spend hours traveling hundreds of miles to access any kind of care, let alone specialist care or maternity care.

Since I was elected, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to identify legislative solutions to the issues our rural residents are facing. This year I introduced the CHIME Act, legislation to extend the Community Health Center Fund and the National Health Service Corps for 5 years and increase funding for priority areas.

Community health centers are critical to serve hundreds of thousands of patients every year just in Arizona. In my district, and many rural areas, community health centers are often the primary care facility for a large portion of the population. If funding for community health centers in Arizona were to lapse, just in my district, tens of thousands of rural residents would be left without access to critical care.

My language to extend this funding was included in this week's continuing resolution, but it is at risk of expiring if we cannot come together to fund the government. We need a long-term solution. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this bill into law permanently, so our communities have the support and certainty they need.

Additionally this year, I introduced the GME, graduate medical education amendment, to the Lower Drug Costs

Now Act. My amendment would instruct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for hospitals in rural and medically underserved areas. We must act now to ensure that rural communities have the resources they need.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, our country will suffer a shortage of over 120,000 physicians by 2032. Rural areas will be hit especially hard. We must do what we can now to prevent this from happening and to mitigate the effects. My amendment would help incentivize doctors to stay and practice in our rural communities. We know very well that, when a resident comes to a rural community or any other community, there is a higher percentage that want to stay in that community after their residency.

This May, after years of work with stakeholders, community leaders, and veterans' advocates, I was able to secure Federal funding for the construction of veterans nursing homes in Flagstaff, in my district, and Yuma in western Arizona. We found out during that time that you can't build a facility like that on Tribal lands, so we have a bill that is trying to change that so the many Tribal nations in our country and nations like the Navajo Nation that are as big as West Virginia can have a nursing center close to the many veterans that they have.

For too long these rural construction projects were unfairly penalized by an outdated VA funding formula that left too many families without the help that they deserve.

□ 1315

We must continue to expand access to healthcare for rural Americans, but I know these are merely first steps. There is much work to be done and many hurdles that must be crossed before we ensure that our veterans, seniors, and families across rural America have access to quality healthcare that is close to home.

Just quickly, rural America is probably tied closer to urban America than many people know. But the families who we need there—who supply the food, the water, the energy, everything that makes urban America survive—won't be there if we don't have people who want to and are able to live there. That means we have to have good schools, good healthcare, and good job opportunities.

We want our children to move back to rural America, and we will not have that if we do not address the appropriate concerns.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), my colleague.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN), my friend, for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Rural Health Day.

I am proud to represent a rural district in upstate New York. These are

strong communities of hardworking men and women, but too often, I hear about the challenges facing these families.

I recently heard from farmers at a roundtable about the stress of losing a farm that has been in the family for generations and the barriers to reaching out for help when you are in distress.

Rural Americans too often face long travel times to access healthcare and a lack of adequate resources locally.

Tragically, the CDC reports that the suicide rate in rural America is 45 percent higher than in urban areas.

We need to do better.

That is why I am proud to work with my colleagues Representative KATKO and Representative CRAIG to introduce the Seeding Rural Resilience Act. This bipartisan bill will direct more resources to reduce the stigma around mental healthcare and help connect farmers with available resources.

It shouldn't matter if you live in New Berlin or New York City: You deserve access to quality, affordable healthcare.

It is time for Congress to act to deliver more access to affordable healthcare across our rural communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge consideration and swift passage of my bill and other actions to help address the specific needs of rural Americans.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am honored to be joined by my colleagues today on National Rural Health Day to express the importance of rural healthcare across America.

Nearly 57 million Americans, or about one out of five, call their communities rural communities, and they call these places their home. That includes many residents of my district in south Jersey.

The State of New Jersey Department of Health defines a rural community as an area within the State that has a population density of fewer than 500 persons per square mile. Most of these areas tend to not only have a lack of healthcare but more need for accessible, affordable care.

The populations in rural communities tend to have more households with people over 65 years of age, many of whom live alone. Additionally, they have higher rates of suicide, cancer, diabetes, asthma, and obesity. Most do not have any health insurance at all.

We must act on health legislation that not only supports the development of community health centers and their accessibility but also finds creative ways to support these rural communities. Ultimately, we will save their lives.

It is important that we address these life-threatening rural health concerns

and foster available and accessible health services for all of these rural Americans.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), my colleague.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman O'HALLERAN for leading this Blue Dog Special Order on a very important issue affecting rural America.

The Blue Dogs, obviously, represent the breadth and width and diversity of our country, but many of us represent rural areas. Healthcare for every American is a critical need, a critical issue.

In 2010, before the Affordable Care Act became law, in the district that I represent in California, in the San Joaquin Valley, 22 percent of my constituents had no healthcare insurance whatsoever, and 17 percent were underinsured.

The Affordable Care Act has a number of areas where we could provide improvements if we could get bipartisan agreement, but the fact is that we have the ability to protect individuals who have preexisting conditions; children can be on their parents' healthcare insurance until the age of 25; things have really expanded with Medicaid and Medicare; and, what often gets overlooked, \$8 billion was provided in the Affordable Care Act for rural healthcare clinics across America.

What does this mean in my district, a district that represents one of the richest agricultural regions in the entire country and the world? We have gone, in 9 years, from 22 percent underinsured to 10 percent underinsured. We have cut the number of people who have no insurance by more than half. We have reduced the level of those who are underinsured.

In addition, clinics in my area, Camarena, Livingston, Golden Valley, Clinica Sierra, to mention at least four or five, have all expanded their rural healthcare clinics to provide more healthcare for people who live in rural areas, from prenatal to elderly and everything in between.

In addition, they have done innovative things like other clinics across America. They have put healthcare clinics in high schools and middle schools, which has provided greater access to healthcare.

We have made a difference. We have improved the level of healthcare. But the reality is this: For three decades, the number of hospitals in rural areas in our country has declined at a steep pace. Among the 50 rural hospitals in California, more than a dozen have closed since the early 2000s.

It also has been devastating not only to the level of healthcare but to the residents who live in those communities, hardworking people who contribute to our economy every day, part of our farm communities.

I think it is important to note that for every 1,000 people in the place I

live, we have 0.9 physicians. Anywhere else in California, for every 1,000 people, there are 2.2 physicians, twice as many physicians.

While this is an important part of improving healthcare, we also need to get medical schools. That is something that I have worked on. I have worked on trying to get additional medical schools not only across the country but in the San Joaquin Valley.

We know that if you get a medical school there, it provides an opportunity for students who graduate from that medical school to practice in the area in which they have graduated.

We have proof of that. We have residency programs that I have been very supportive of with the University of California, San Francisco, UCSF, which has over 280 residents who are being trained in the valley right now. Over half of those physicians over the last 40 years who have graduated from that residency program have stayed to practice in our valley. So a medical school is an important part of an overall strategy.

As Blue Dogs, we want to continue to support expanded healthcare throughout our rural areas. This is something I believe Democrats and Republicans can come together on in a bipartisan manner.

These are many ways in which we can work to ensure that rural America gets reliable, affordable healthcare that they deserve, like every other American. That is why Blue Dogs are speaking out on this issue today.

Since taking office, this administration, sadly, has made repeated efforts to eliminate the Affordable Care Act without putting anything in its place. That makes no sense. That makes no sense whatsoever.

Just this week, we voted on a continuing resolution to keep government open for the next 6 weeks. We should have a real budget in place at this time. It is irresponsible to ever, as the President did earlier this year, shut down government. But in this continuing resolution, we have funding to ensure that our community health centers keep receiving the funding they need to stay open and serve their patients.

This year alone, Congress has voted on 10 different proposals to improve healthcare and stabilize the Affordable Care Act for American families. They are over in the Senate right now. Sadly, instead of taking action, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL refuses to bring up these good measures.

We could be lowering the cost of prescription drugs, which affects all Americans, whether you live in rural areas or urban areas, and ensuring that we protect those who have preexisting conditions, preexisting conditions of heart disease, cancer, diabetes.

These bills, sadly, are collecting dust on the majority leader's desk.

I want to close by saying, as a 15-year member of the Blue Dog Coalition, our caucus stands together to try to improve healthcare for all Americans.

For those of us who represent rural America, like Congressman O'HALLERAN, myself, and many others, it is important to note that we must improve our healthcare system for the people who live in our rural areas.

It is time for the Senate to do their job and pass these important bills.

We will continue to work to try to expand access to healthcare in rural areas with our clinics and to create medical schools in areas that are significantly underserved.

While we continue to patiently ask the Senate to act, I know the Blue Dogs will continue to advocate for policies that improve access to healthcare for all Americans, especially for those rural Americans we represent.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership in this important area as the legislative chair for the Blue Dog caucus. The citizens of Arizona are fortunate to have a good Representative.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, California is, too.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman again, and I wish him a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for joining me to participate in this important show of support by the Blue Dog caucus for rural healthcare and access across America today.

A couple of quick examples: First of all, when you are traveling across the country from urban America through rural America, this hospital issue, this medical issue, is your issue because the hospitals that we have are the hospitals you are going to be taken to. The ambulances that have to take an hour or 2 hours to get to the site where you are at are the ambulances that you are going to be taking, too.

People on dialysis in rural America, whether it is a Tribal community or another community in rural America, some of them have to drive 2 hours one way to get their treatment and then 2 hours back home. Sometimes they do 3 days a week, sometimes up to 4 days a week, sick people traveling hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of miles to get this type of treatment so they can live.

Cancer is the same way. Cancer patients have to find a way to get that treatment. It is very scarce in rural America.

Rural communities make up the very fabric of America. Their success is our Nation's success.

I am committed to fighting to improve access to healthcare for rural, Tribal, and other underserved communities, for hardworking families and veterans who often travel hundreds of miles for basic care.

As I stated before, my district is rural for the most part, and we have 60,000 veterans within the district.

For rural healthcare to be totally successful, we must improve broadband and expand it so that telemedicine is meaningful for the people who live in rural areas across America.

Improving access to care is not a partisan issue. We must come together across the aisle and continue to work to identify legislative solutions to the barriers our rural residents face.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to pass without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3055.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3055) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes."

□ 1330

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week, where all across the globe cities will be hosting events that will inspire millions to explore their potential as an entrepreneur while fostering connections and increasing collaborations within their communities.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the engines of our economy in Arkansas and across our country. They support millions of jobs in this Nation. They create and support jobs within their local communities and employ approximately half the private-sector workers in the United States.

As a co-chairman and founder of the House Entrepreneurship Caucus, I am proud to celebrate the visionary men and women who boldly pursue their passion to build the growth businesses that fuel our economy.

The United States has served as a global beacon of innovation, delivering remarkable new products and services that improve the lives of all Americans. Today, over 99 percent of U.S. employers are small businesses that create 57 million jobs that generate 44 percent of our economic activity.

The spirit of the startup is built into our American DNA. Our country is home to the world's greatest inventions, companies, and technological advances because we believe that anyone with a good idea and determination can build a business that changes the world.

The House Entrepreneurship Caucus believes in empowering the pursuit of America's innovators by removing the barriers that make it harder to start a business in this country.

Over the past four decades, I have had a long career focused on different aspects of entrepreneurship and technology. Back in 1980, I helped start a payment system innovator in the banking industry, a company that became PULSE, the largest shared ATM/POS system in the Southwest. PULSE is now owned by Discover.

I didn't know it at the time, as a young person, but I was an entrepreneur. I took a leave from a public company that I worked for and helped start an innovative financial technology business that really changed the face of banking in Texas in those years.

Likewise, later in the late 1980s and early 1990s, I served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Corporate Finance at the Treasury. There, working with my colleagues at the Commerce Department, we focused on how to make American companies more competitive.

How do we lower barriers to our global competitiveness? That was a key moment at that time, given the world in the late 1980s, with amazing increases in foreign competition from Asia and from Europe.

Also, how do we reduce the barriers for investment in technology companies, something that, now, America, again, 30 years later, is so well known for? And yet, still investing in technology, whether it is biotech or Silicon Valley or in the worldwide web investing, that is still a challenge to come up with the right number of dollars to support investing in technology, where you don't have traditional assets.

So throughout my career, I have tried to lead in looking for solutions to build our entrepreneurship and build our business ecosystem, and I have had the pleasure to work in a variety of different industries.

As a chamber chairman and as a community banker, I led the way in my hometown of Little Rock to improve our ecosystem by supporting the BioVentures incubator at the University of Arkansas medical campus, support the creation of a venture center. These are all things that I have seen help create a spirit of entrepreneurship in not only Little Rock, but across the country.

Perhaps Steve Case has said it best. By creating an environment where there is the rise of the rest, where technology, entrepreneurship, business startups are not limited to the West Coast or the East Coast of the United States, but are spread across all of our towns and communities in a better way, things like the innovation hub or the program called the Conductor are bringing to middle America the kinds of entrepreneurship talents and abilities that we need.

But the most things that a startup business needs, more than anything

else besides capital, is to take that idea and have a good set of mentors or advisers. That is something that, again, the Conductor and the innovation hubs in our small business development centers across the country help create, that local community entrepreneurship culture.

Now, since joining Congress some 4½, almost, now, 5 years ago, I have continued to focus my work to expand the flow of capital, reduce barriers to business startups and business growth, and consistently, Madam Speaker, I have tailored my thoughts in the following key areas that Federal policy can influence entrepreneurship:

We need to tailor regulatory regimes for businesses. We need to be very sensitive about the regulatory burden to a startup or to a small business or to a mom-and-pop.

We need to lower taxes for capital investment and capital gains taxation to encourage long-term investments, and some of the changes that we made in the 2017 tax bill reflect that.

Lowering taxes on investment, encouraging investments in opportunity zones, encouraging long-term capital investment, returning capital to the United States, all this creates a better entrepreneurship environment.

We want to mitigate barriers for companies that want to go public, that want that ultimate recognition of raising capital on the public markets.

Over the last three decades, we have seen the number of public companies fall, Madam Speaker, dramatically, and we want to know what are the barriers that are causing fewer companies to go public in our country.

We want to reward innovation.

We want to make sure Federal policies streamline efficiencies and compliance for our business.

And, finally, we want to make sure that credit is available equally across this great country.

In furtherance of these ideals, I would like to highlight the work of the Kauffman Foundation and their new report just released, "America's New Business Plan."

The Kauffman Foundation is a leader in this field and recently formed the "Start Us Up" coalition, in collaboration with over 100 entrepreneurship advocacy groups, to address many of the issues that I have touched on and am discussing today.

America's New Business Plan outlines four key principles that are necessary to support entrepreneurship and business development:

Number one, opportunity: a level playing field and less red tape. When it comes to starting a business, entrepreneurs need a level playing field to compete with larger, more established enterprises.

Number two, funding: equal access to the right kind of capital—not just bank loans, but also venture capital. The idea of an innovation grant, called an SBIR, the opportunity to raise angel capital or venture capital.

Number three, knowledge: the know-how to start a business, including understanding the requirements and barriers that come with turning an idea into reality.

Having been engaged in so many emerging companies and startup companies over my career, that is always that strict assessment that an entrepreneur, a visionary, a startup company owner really needs, perspective: perspective on what are the requirements needed to start your business and any barriers that would make it difficult, and having a realistic plan to deal with that.

And the fourth key area that Kauffman outlines is support: the ability for all to take risks, while having the proper support after becoming an entrepreneur and leaving behind that stability of a traditional job and that paycheck every 2 weeks and the benefits that come with it.

That is why I emphasize those four areas are so key.

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville recently established their Startup Village to address a few of these issues by providing students and the community entrepreneurs with the resources and support needed early in the process to help them launch their own business and pursue happiness.

I know how important it is to have a wide range of funding options that I have talked about. In central Arkansas, I am proud to note that private equity has created over 1,600 jobs and invested more than \$2 billion just in the last 5 years, demonstrating that Steve Case is right, that all communities can share in this prosperity if they have that right ecosystem.

Specifically, to push some of these ideals, I have supported different causes and different legislation in this House that I want to highlight during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

First, we formed the Entrepreneurship Caucus to address these issues and have our support in the House of job creators across this country. We did that in conjunction with the United States Senate, which also has started an Entrepreneurship Caucus. It is led by Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator SCOTT. I was pleased to, here in the House, have my colleagues join me from House Financial Services, House Ways and Means, and House Small Business.

To start it, we had my colleagues—Congressmen FOSTER, CHABOT, MURPHY of Florida, SCHWEIKERT, and VEASEY—all coming together with an idea that we will be a voice to create, I would say, an ability to watch for legislation in this House that may have either a positive effect on capital formation and business formation or a deleterious effect.

Number two, we have introduced the Enhancing Entrepreneurship for the 21st Century Act.

As a part of this caucus work, I have introduced legislation with the co-chairs that directs the Secretary of

Commerce to conduct a comprehensive study into the underlying economic factors driving the decline in rates in entrepreneurship. Senators KLOBUCHAR and SCOTT have introduced a Senate companion of this bill, as well.

I also introduced with my friend, Representative SCHWEIKERT from Arizona, a bill that I saw was a big help to people starting a business, and I call it the Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act. What this does is it changes the definition of an accredited investor.

Right now, Madam Speaker, you have to invest in a private business to participate in a venture capital idea, to go into what the SEC calls a reg D private placement offering. You have to be an accredited investor. You have to have a certain net worth. You have to have a certain income.

For many people, that discriminates against their ability to lead a company, invest in a company in which they have terrific expertise. So this bill simply says that professional expertise can also count to that definition of an accredited investor, and it is not limited to just high net worth individuals.

Additionally, I have cosponsored legislation called Helping Startups Continue to Grow Act. This extends that regulatory balance, those compliance costs. It reduces those for emerging growth companies from 5 years up to 10 years.

□ 1345

This is where companies that are just growing, accessing capital through the public markets, have a lower regulatory burden now for 10 years rather than 5.

So those are some of the key things that we are doing in these first few days of the House Entrepreneurship Caucus. I encourage all of my colleagues to get involved, whether they are entrepreneurs or not, if they have that entrepreneurial spirit, or if they believe that we should limit the government's red tape in bogging down innovative Americans from starting their business.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, 79 percent of new business owners feel they did not have that kind of support from government when they started their business.

The House Entrepreneurship Caucus was created to attack that issue and identify comprehensive efforts on how to answer to these problems that have limited business formation and make it easier to start a business.

Working with entrepreneurs, business leaders, and economists to identify the root causes of what the Kauffman Foundation calls the current startup slump is a critical step to unleashing a new generation, a new wave of business growth in this country.

Having effective policies in place to encourage innovation can make all the difference in the world for the entre-

preneur in their first few years of a new endeavor.

I am working hard to create that environment where all Americans are empowered to boldly pursue their passions and build a business that can change the world. Supporting innovators and new business founders is a mission that is not a partisan one. And with our voices, both Democrat and Republican in this new caucus, it won't be.

COMMENDING ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Arkansas Department of Human Services for taking action to address the urgent need for better mental healthcare by establishing a support line to connect Arkansans to low-cost mental health and substance abuse services.

Far too many Americans, about one in five, are suffering from some form of mental illness, a problem that has disrupted too many families, caused too much violence and pain, and cost far too many lives.

Untreated, mental health disorders and substance abuse have resulted in countless tragedies in our country, including over 45,000 lives lost to suicide and 70,000 lives lost to drug overdoses, both in 2017 alone.

We all must work together and continue to move forward in addressing the issue of mental health and mental health access and do what we can to save the lives of all American citizens and reverse this deadly trend of suicides and overdoses.

The Arkansas support line is now live. If you or a loved one need mental health or substance abuse services, please share this number and call the DHS mental healthcare support line at 1-844-763-0198.

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good work of the Arkansas chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and to call attention to this topic that is so important throughout our Nation.

Since I came to Congress, I have met with Arkansas American Foundation for Suicide Prevention members, their families, and recently, Tyler West and Christopher Epperson. This week I cosponsored H.R. 4194, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, in honor of them, and for so many like them and their families that have been affected by suicide and hope that we can reduce suicides nationwide.

This bill would designate 988 as the universal telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, making it just as simple as dialing 911 for emergency help.

I want to thank my friend and colleague, Representative CHRIS STEWART, for introducing this vital legislation.

We all must work together and do what we can to save the lives of our fellow citizens and reverse this deadly trend.

I look forward to the day we vote on this House floor to make 988 that life-saving number.

CONGRATULATING VINH LONG ON A NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Vinh Long on opening their new manufacturing facility in Morrilton, Arkansas.

Vinh Long Import-Export Manufacturing Company is headquartered in Vinh Long, Vietnam, and was started from a small weaving group for local women in 1976.

It has now expanded into a multi-million-dollar international operation. The company has grown to become one of Vietnam's largest natural fiber manufacturers.

The new facility in Arkansas will have approximately 75 employees and use local suppliers in the production of furniture and other household goods for retailers in North America such as IKEA.

The company has invested more than \$10 million in the Morrilton facility, which is the first Vietnamese-based manufacturer to locate operations in the United States. It is a pleasure to visit this new facility, greet the team, and learn about their plans for manufacturing in central Arkansas. I look forward to their continued success.

RECOGNIZING BANK ON ARKANSAS PLUS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arkansas' efforts toward helping residents gain financial independence through the Bank On Arkansas Plus initiative. A statewide coalition of financial institutions has partnered to form Bank On Arkansas Plus to fight the unbanked individual, which are individuals, citizens that don't have access to affordable, local banking services.

Madam Speaker, around 27 percent of Arkansans are considered underbanked, and 1 in 10 Arkansas households have no bank account.

I want to thank my friend Darrin Williams, the chief executive officer of Southern Bancorp and a founding partner in Bank On Arkansas Plus.

Darrin and other Bank On partners provide checking accounts with no overdraft fees, no minimum monthly balances, and access to a debit or ATM card for all participants.

Financial security is a freedom that many people in the low-income areas of our country may not be able to afford or may not be able to have access to. And as a former community banker in Little Rock, I commend Darrin, his team, and all of the participating financial institutions for partnering to create Bank On.

This is such a worthwhile strategy to help all Arkansans have access and opportunity to build savings and build wealth for themselves, and to have financial independence.

CONGRATULATING HARDING UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIAN JEAN WALDROP

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Jean Waldrop, librarian of Harding University, on receiving the Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award.

This award is given—in memory of Suzanne Spurrier, the former library director at Harding University—each year to the librarian who exemplifies the spirit of outstanding service and is dedicated to the professionalism that we expect from all librarians.

Miss Waldrop has been working at Harding's Brackett Library since 2006 and oversaw several areas of the library before becoming its director. She has served as the secretary for ARKLink, a board member for Amigos, and is currently serving on the White County Regional Library System board and the Searcy Public Library board.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Jean Waldrop on receiving this recognition and wish her much continued success.

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

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS FIT A PATH AND A CONTINUUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and to be recognized for 30 minutes here as the week closes out and we head back to our districts for Thanksgiving.

The scenario that has been playing out here now for several weeks in this Congress has been a topic across the news, across the land, and certainly reverberates within the walls of this building and the halls of the outside buildings everywhere around this country.

I speak, of course, of the attempt to impeach our President, President Donald Trump. The circumstances around this week and last week and the previous week are pretty fresh in our minds, but I would like to paint the scenario on how we got to this point and how the effort to impeach Donald Trump has evolved into the hearings that we are seeing now that are taking place before the Select Committee on Intelligence—finally out in the open—and the hearings and the deliberations that I think are likely to take place on

the other side of this Thanksgiving divide.

Madam Speaker, it all fits a path and a continuum, and it is something that one can trace back clear into as far back, I will say, as perhaps the fall of 2015.

Being a Representative from Iowa, I have been involved in the Presidential selection process at the first-in-the-Nation caucus. We did an event on January 24, 2015, that effectively launched the Presidential campaign for the Nation on that day and brought in a dozen candidates that were eventually announced as candidates for President on the Republican side, and a number of other folks who we had speak that day who we thought might enter into the race.

There was a short handful that were invited that didn't come to that event. But because of that, I found myself in the middle of this churning of the nomination process. I saw the policies and the issues that flowed from that debate, and I was in the middle of the debate myself intensively for nearly a year and a half.

At that event that we did in Des Moines at the Hoyt Sherman Place—it is a theater that our future President Donald Trump spoke from the stage that day, as did a good number of others—as we watched this all unfold and they saw that Donald Trump was moving closer and closer to the nomination—we didn't know this at the time, but we know it now—there were powerful forces within the departments of government that were positioning things against whoever the Republican nominee would be, but certainly against Donald Trump as he became the nominee.

We have seen the texts that came forth from Peter Strzok and from Lisa Page that talked about how it could never happen; that Donald Trump could never beat Hillary Clinton. But they had an insurance policy in the event that that outside long shot actually took place.

Madam Speaker, I want people reminded of this because this insurance policy is being executed right now here in the House of Representatives in these impeachment hearings that are being conducted by ADAM SCHIFF, the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Now, a number of things happened that need to be investigated that were not investigated nearly as deeply as they should have been and that is, for example, the mishandling of classified information on Hillary Clinton's server, her using a private server that she had set up intentionally to avoid the secure server that one would have as a Secretary of State.

The evidence shows that it is very likely, if not already confirmed, that Barack Obama communicated with Hillary Clinton through that server knowingly, and that he had an email address that was exclusive to him, that was certainly known by a number of people

who he communicated with on the off-line off channel, against-the-law effort to communicate outside the bounds of the government secure servers.

That was going on and she, you know, she paid for BleachBit. She hired people to scrub those servers to get rid of the information. There were over 30,000 emails that were the property of the American people in the form of the Federal Government that were destroyed.

We haven't found those, and she has not been held accountable for that. And the mishandling of that information was clear. It was a stark violation of Federal statute. In October of 2015, and again in April of 2016, then-President Barack Obama said: Well, Hillary Clinton would never intend to jeopardize our national security.

And when he spoke those words, he spoke those words into what became later on, effectively, law. Because the law doesn't require that there be any intent. Negligence, gross negligence, is the only requirement.

She was clearly grossly negligent. She certainly intended to circumvent the secure servers that had been set up for that very purpose of protecting the classified information of all of those emails that we got down out of Anthony Weiner's laptop. There was reported to be 650,000. Some of them were classified emails that went up into that laptop of Anthony Weiner.

□ 1400

But she was never taken to account on that. There was an interview of Hillary Clinton that took place July 2, 2016. That interview had in it, by testimony of the then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and also James Comey, the director of the FBI, both testified that there were eight agents in that room that questioned Hillary Clinton. They disagreed on how many were from the Department of Justice and how many were from the FBI.

Since the FBI is a division of the Department of Justice, I think that it is probably not as important an issue as this is: That we don't know their names. But I believe they were hand-picked to bring about the result.

The statement that was delivered 3 days later by James Comey on July 5, that 15- to 17-minute long presentation that sounded like an indictment of Hillary Clinton until you got down to the last few sentences of it, was written clear back in May, and it had the words "gross negligence" in it. And they changed those words from "gross negligence," because that matched the statute that would have been a clear violation, to "extreme carelessness" as opposed to "gross negligence."

And then James Comey said Hillary Clinton would never intend to, and you could not prove intent, so no serious prosecutor would prosecute because you couldn't prove that she intended to jeopardize our national security. But the statute doesn't require the intent. It was Barack Obama's words that

plugged intent into the effect of the language in the statute that I believe was clearly violated by Hillary Clinton.

And furthermore, of the eight that were in that room, the number of investigators that questioned Hillary Clinton, and that is a number that is again agreed to by Loretta Lynch and by James Comey, those eight, we don't know who they are.

I asked her under oath who was at the table. She said she didn't know. In fact, that she had never known. And I asked a previous attorney general that question: What are the odds that an attorney general under those circumstances, the highest-level investigation that the Department of Justice could ever conduct—aside from impeachment, by the way—was the investigation of Hillary Clinton's mishandling of the emails and the classified documents, what are the odds, I asked the former attorney general, that Loretta Lynch wouldn't know who was in that room questioning Hillary Clinton?

That former attorney general didn't want to go on record, so he held his hand up. Zero is what he signaled with his fingers, in that fashion. It looks like an "okay," for the RECORD.

Well, of course, it wasn't okay to get that answer. And I never believed it. I don't believe it today. I believe I was lied to under oath. And when I asked James Comey the same question under oath as well, he gave me a similar answer. He didn't know.

What are the odds James Comey didn't know who was in that room questioning Hillary Clinton?

And then I asked the question of Peter Strzok under oath, and Peter Strzok gave me an honest answer. He said, "I was." Well, we have seen him in most everything that was going on, and in fact, he was on Robert Mueller's investigative team as well until the text between himself and Lisa Page came out, and then there was no choice, he had to be removed from the Mueller team.

Peter Strzok showed up everywhere that these kind of finaglings were going on, and I believe that he was the one that put the team together that questioned Hillary Clinton that brought about a result that he wanted, and not necessarily an objective one.

So I would ask each one of them, I want to see—this is former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and James Comey, Peter Strzok and others, I want to see the videotape of the interview of Hillary Clinton that took place July 2, 2016.

Sorry, there is no videotape.

Then I want to hear the audiotape.

Sorry, there is no audiotape.

Then I want to read the transcripts.

Sorry, there is no transcript.

Well, they actually weren't sorry. We all know that, Madam Speaker. But there is no videotape of that interview, the highest-level interview that one could imagine at the time. There is no audiotape; there is no transcript.

What exists?

And their answer is, there is a 302 report. The 302 report is compiled from the notes of the investigators that were in the room. But we don't know who those investigators were, except for Peter Strzok. He said he was in the room, but he wouldn't tell me who the others were. And so some place out there, there are presumably eight sets of notes.

Madam Speaker, seven other people were there that heard the testimony of Hillary Clinton, and they are all anonymous. And if we had them before this Congress and we were able to ask them questions under oath, I am going to guess that one or more of them are going to tell us the truth about what took place in the room that day.

But nonetheless, they went through that process. James Comey stepped up and delivered a 15- to 17-minute statement to the press and to the public that resulted in no further action on the gross negligence, which is a violation of Federal statute, by Hillary Clinton.

And, therefore, we moved on to the Presidential election. And further, Peter Strzok, Lisa Page—and I am going to suggest many others—set about trying to prevent Donald Trump from becoming President of the United States. And they were pumping information into the press.

We had the Steele dossier. And you know much of this narrative as it unfolded, but once we got to the election, and Donald Trump was elected President of the United States, he is President-elect on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The following Sunday, in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here in Washington, D.C., the highest level of Democrats in the country converged on that hotel starting Sunday afternoon, led by—according to a Politico article that I checked—led by George Soros, himself, in that hotel. His face is front and center on the article—in fact, several articles that are out there that tell about this gathering.

So the gathering was scheduled to plan how they were going to utilize—and I use that word kind of cautiously, instead of what I would prefer—how they were going to utilize the new Presidency of Hillary Clinton. But, of course, they had to change their plans, Madam Speaker.

So the plans instead were, how do we deny the ability of Donald Trump to govern this country? What shall we do? And out of that conference that was that following Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning, those days, they planned how they would resist this President, this duly-elected President under the Constitution of the United States with over 62 million votes cast for him—an electoral victory—over 300 electoral votes, and they planned on how they were going to deny the will of the American people under the Constitution.

And that plan started out with the resistance movement. And almost im-

mediately, you saw protests in the cities across the country. And I know some of those protestors were paid to go protest, Madam Speaker. So the disruption in our society began, the resistance began.

And what about the rest of the planning that likely took place there—and I use that word carefully, too, because a lot of this was never reported and never spoken to, but we know they planned the resistance movement. And you would see demonstrations in the street with big banners that said "resist" or "resistance."

We saw also nearly a million women came to this city that protested the inauguration of Donald Trump, wearing those pink hats. And I wouldn't repeat into the RECORD what they named those hats, Madam Speaker, but I met hundreds of them. I argued with scores of them, as a matter of fact, at a setting over in one part of the city that night.

Many of them were carrying obscene signs, obscene symbols, and they were there to resist the inauguration of the President and let the world know that they rejected President Donald Trump as a duly-elected President of the United States.

And other things took place, I believe, in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. And I believe that was when they accelerated a strategy to weaponize certain words in our English language and into the political-speak here in the United States.

"Resist" was one of those words that they used, and that connotes that you are a revolutionary group, that you are fighting against an illegitimate government, that word "resist" or "resistance." And it foments friction within the streets, and it divides Americans, and it accentuated the differences between us.

Instead of coming together after an election, like we want to do and need to do, instead, we are being divided strategically by the hierarchy of the Democratic party in a strategy that was put together in the Mandarin Hotel in this town.

And then as this unfolded, other pieces of the strategy came together, but some of those things that I believe happened inside that hotel were the acceleration of the weaponization of words. And I can think of one that I know the data on from memory, and it was this: White nationalist.

I looked this up in LexisNexis, because the question came up in front of me in kind of an unexpected way. And so we went back in LexisNexis, first, to see if I had ever used those terms. Never, from the year 2000 all the way up until January of this year when the New York Times misquoted me as using it. But it was virtually unused from the year 2000 all the way up until 2016.

And that means 1 to 200 times a year that would show up in print somewhere in a blog, or maybe a scholarly report of some kind or another, the term

white nationalist. We didn't use those terms as Americans. We didn't write about them, we didn't speak them. It was outside the mind of anything that we were paying attention to collectively—1 to 200 times a year.

So the graph is flat from 2000 up to 2016. And 2016, abruptly, it shoots up to 10,000 times a year—virtually unused until 2016, 10,000 times. Many of that was in the latter part of the year, after the meeting in the Mandarin Hotel. And then the following year, 2017, that term white nationalist was used 30,000 times.

And in 2018, it was still used up there at 20,000 times, Madam Speaker. That was one of the words they weaponized. They weaponized Nazi and fascism and white supremacy altogether, and they want to attack Western Civilization itself.

There are other ways to divide America and to pit us against each other, but they were weaponizing terms.

Other things, the insurance policy that I mentioned earlier. Well, what is that insurance policy? It is tying the President up with protests, lock up everything, delay the confirmations, so that he can't put his government in place. You saw that happen in the Senate over and over again, where they did everything they could do to slow down the confirmation of the President's appointees and not let the President have the team that he wanted to run this country, and to slow down the confirmation of judges in our judicial system as well.

All of that was taking place. And that all fits within a strategy and a plan that I believe is rooted in that day, in that Sunday after the election, beginning there, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, after the election of Donald Trump.

Furthermore, the resistance, the weaponization of language, the delay of confirmations, the obstruction of the ability of the President to deploy the people he wants within this government—and meanwhile, then there was a strategy that was implemented, initially, by James Comey, and also Robert Mueller. Both of them interviewed to be the continuing director of the FBI. And James Comey has admitted all of this under oath, and he has told the public this, and, I think, bragged about it. And that is, that when he had his meeting with President Trump, he went out and sat in his car, and he typed up the notes on what he remembered.

He took those notes, by his own admission, to a professor at Columbia University, who is his friend, with directions for that professor to leak that information to the New York Times. By leaking the interpretation that was typed up by James Comey to the New York Times, they strategized that they could trigger a special counsel, especially, and that special counsel needed to be Robert Mueller. They pulled that all off with the cooperation of the second-in-command at the Department of Justice, Rod Rosenstein.

And so as those recommendations unfolded, we had Mueller as special counsel, James Comey was fired by the President—he resisted that, of course. But the Mueller report then, as they dug through that and spent nearly \$30 million, and they had their team of Never Trumpers to put on to investigate. And all the while, they were going to find the smoking gun.

I am going to use the term “the blue dress.” That would be the reasons that they could impeach Donald Trump. They never found it.

□ 1415

For nearly 2 years of the Mueller investigation, Democrats in this town and across the country were just anxiously waiting for: “When does this information come out that we can grab and say gotcha?”

Madam Speaker, when do you investigate a crime without a crime? When you identify the person whom you want to find guilty, and then you scour everything you possibly can to try to come up with something that you can use to declare the man to be guilty enough that you can do what they already wanted to do, which is remove this President from office.

If they can't remove him from office, then they want to render him ineffective so that they can push their agenda down on him. At the very least, they want to wound him in such a way that they can figure out how to beat him in the election.

That is not speculation, Madam Speaker. That is out of the mouth of one of our Members who speaks on impeachment in this House almost every single day, that we have to impeach Donald Trump because we can't beat him in the election.

The will of the people has already been inhibited and diminished because of the actions of this Congress and the actions of a complicit press, and here we sat with that all unfolding through the Mueller report. It finally came out with a big flop.

If you are wondering how this all fits together, Madam Speaker, then think back that there were 4 to 5 weeks of kind of silence after the Mueller report flopped. There were some who tried to resurrect it again to try to find a morsel in it that they could grasp and embellish. They just couldn't get traction because there was nothing there.

After those 4 to 5 weeks, then we end up with the whistleblower, the whistleblower who was not privy to this telephone conversation that took place on July 25, a whistleblower who I believe is a Democrat operative. The associations that are reported to me and many others say that he has been under the wing of, in the employment of, and in cooperation with many of the highest level people who are partisans on the Democratic side.

This whistleblower is kind of interesting. He triggers an impeachment investigation with second-, third-, and fourth-hand information. He has no

eyes-on, hands-on, or ears-on experience or experience of any kind. He writes a second-, third-, and fourth-hand whistleblower report. Actually, he didn't write it. A team of lawyers wrote this. He mailed it to the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on August 12.

We had ADAM SCHIFF with this whistleblower report in his hands August 12, and nothing happened for weeks because they were still planning their strategy. ADAM SCHIFF said that he doesn't know who the whistleblower is. That is going to turn out to be one of the clearest examples of untruth that one has seen in this Congress. With a straight face, he looks into the camera and says: I don't know who the whistleblower is, and I haven't met with him.

I think it will be corrected eventually in the RECORD.

The whistleblower must come forward. But when he filed that whistleblower report that was written by the lawyers for him, and it is secondhand, thirdhand, fourth-hand, 100 percent hearsay information, when he filed that, it was filed with the inspector general in the intelligence community.

The rules on accepting whistleblower reports require that it be firsthand information, not hearsay information. The inspector general changed the rules to be able to accept second-, third-, and fourth-hand hearsay information as a whistleblower complaint.

How far do you have to go to have to change the rules on the spot in order for that complaint to even be considered?

Now, the whistleblower becomes public in front of everybody for a day or 2 or 3.

Even much of the social media, I believe, is complicit in this effort to get rid of Donald Trump. They take down any information that would identify this whistleblower.

This is like the emperor has no clothes. He is known by thousands of people in this country. I would say tens of thousands of people, even, at a minimum. He is known by, I would say, at least half the Members on the Republican side, and I could speculate on the Democratic side.

Half the Members on this side know who this whistleblower is, but we can't speak his name because now the emperor has no clothes. We are going to act like we don't know who he is.

Somehow, his information is credible enough, even though it is hearsay, that you are putting America through all of this pain, this agony, and this trying to turn over another stone, and maybe there will be something underneath there that we can use to get rid of this President.

They are trying to find the firsthand information that has been missing, so they bring Ambassador Sondland forward. Surely, he would have firsthand information. He testified that he understood that there was a quid pro quo.

It turns out that his understanding was an assumption. It wasn't necessarily an experience, that he had anything that he could point to.

But he testified just yesterday. I thought it was pretty interesting.

The Republican attorney, Steve Castor, asked him this question: "Why don't you tell us, what did the President say to you on September 9 that you remember?"

"What did the President say?" That would be firsthand information, to answer that question.

Ambassador Sondland said: "Well, words to the effect—I decided to ask the President the question in an open-ended fashion because there were so many different scenarios floating around as to what was going on with Ukraine. So rather than ask the President nine different questions: Is it this? Is it this? Is it that?"

He is demonstrating how he might ask nine different questions. He said: "I just said, what do you want from Ukraine?"

This is exactly the quote that will now be in the transcript of his testimony yesterday. He said: "I may have even used a four-letter word." That sounds like an honest statement, then.

Sondland, the Ambassador, testified yesterday that the President's answer to that question, the question of what do you want from Ukraine was this: "I want nothing. I want no quid pro quo. I just want Zelensky to do the right thing, to do what he ran on." Then he finished up: "Or words to that effect."

That makes it pretty clear that the President isn't asking for a quid pro quo.

If there is some kind of suspicion on the part of disloyal bureaucrats who are of an opposite ideology from a duly elected President of the United States, who don't agree with his foreign policy, or who try to undermine his foreign policy and undermine the Presidency itself and the effect of the Presidency itself, that is what happens. They create these scenarios. They say that, surely, he must have wanted a quid pro quo.

This is clear evidence that there was not one. He stated multiple times that he was never told by the President that there were preconditions for the aid to be released. He was never told that there were preconditions.

I thank Congressman MICHAEL TURNER for bringing this out yesterday in such a clear fashion when he asked Ambassador Sondland so directly that question. Then Representative TURNER, to nail this down, said to Ambassador Sondland: "After you testified, Chairman SCHIFF ran out and gave a press conference and said he gets to impeach the President of the United States because of your testimony."

The understanding and the implication was that there was a quid pro quo, is what Representative TURNER is saying.

He continues the question to Sondland: "And if you pull up CNN today, right now, their banner says, 'Sondland ties Trump to withholding aid.' Is that your testimony today, Ambassador Sondland, that you have evi-

dence that Donald Trump tied the investigations to the aid? Because I don't think you are saying that."

Ambassador Sondland's response was: "I have said repeatedly, Congressman, I was presuming. I also said that President Trump," but Turner cut him off and said: "So no one told you, not just the President? Giuliani didn't tell you? Mulvaney didn't tell you? Nobody—Pompeo didn't tell you? Nobody else on this planet told you that Donald Trump was tying aid to these investigations; is that correct?"

Sondland said: "I think I already testified—"

Turner cut him off again and said: "No, answer the question. Is it correct? No one on this planet told you that Donald Trump was tying this aid to the investigations? Because if your answer is yes, then the chairman is wrong, and the headline on CNN is wrong. No one on this planet told you that President Trump was tying aid to investigations, yes or no?"

Ambassador Sondland answered "yes," which means no one told him that there was any quid pro quo. It was all in his head, and America is all tied up in these knots over this kind of secondhand information that is distorted in the minds of the people who delivered it to us.

This must be firsthand information, and it must be factual. America needs to be released from this. There is nothing here again. We are going into the third year of this Presidency, and still, they persist.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here. I wish you and everyone a very, very happy Thanksgiving. Let's come back happier than I happen to be today.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1838.—An act to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710.—An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 22, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3052. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Modification of Handling Regulations [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-18-0075; SC19-966-1 FR] received November 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3053. A letter from the Administrator, National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program; Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances per April 2018 NOSB Recommendations (Crops and Handling) [Document Number: AMS-NOP-18-0051; NOP-18-02] (RIN: 0581 AD80) received November 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3054. A letter from the Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2019 Amendments) [Doc. #: AMS-CN-19-0007] received November 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3055. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's interpretive rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Screening and Training Requirements for Mortgage Loan Originators With Temporary Authority received November 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3056. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8601] received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3057. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8597] received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3058. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8595] received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3059. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8603] received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3060. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the

Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rule: Simplifications to the Capital Rule Pursuant to the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996; Revised Effective Date [Docket ID: OCC-2017-0018] (RIN: 1557-AE70) received November 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3061. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Revisions to Safety Standards for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs and Play Yards [Docket No.: CPSC-2019-0025] received November 18, 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.

3062. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Entities to the Entity List, Revision of an Entry on the Entity List, and Removal of Entities from the Entity List [Docket No.: 191105-0076] (RIN: 0694-AH85) received November 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3063. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-69, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3064. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-031, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3065. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office for Management Policy, Budget, and Performance, Office for Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR): Revisions to the Incentive Awards Program for Personal Services Contractors (PSCs) (RIN: 0412-AA93) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3066. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02] (RIN: 0648-XY053) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3067. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 180713633-9174-02] (RIN: 0648-XY052) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3068. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 180713633-9174-02] (RIN: 0648-XY049) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3069. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02] (RIN: 0648-XY027) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3070. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Operating as Catcher Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02] (RIN: 0648-XY028) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3071. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2019 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish; July Through December Season [Docket No.: 141107936-5399-02] (RIN: 0648-XS014) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3072. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of quota transfer — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to CT [Docket No.: 190312234-9412-01; RTID 0648-XX024] received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3073. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS-PIR, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2019 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bigeye Tuna Fishery; Closure [Docket No.: 190325272-9537-02] (RIN: 0648-XG925) received November 18, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3074. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Saint Simmons Sound, GA [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0803] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 18, 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.

3075. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's

final rule — Safety Zone; Mackinaw City Fall Colors Fireworks, Mackinaw City, MI [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0758] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 18, 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.

3076. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Wando Terminal Crane Movement; Charleston, SC [Document Number: USCG-2019-0741] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 18, 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.

3077. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zones; Humboldt Bay Bar and Entrance Channel, Eureka, CA, Noyo River Entrance Channel, Ft. Bragg, CA, and Crescent City Harbor Entrance Channel, Crescent City, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0813] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 18, 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.

3078. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Naval Training Operations, U.S. Naval Magazine Indian Island, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0857] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 18, 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.

3079. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation Infrastructure Management [Docket No.: FTA-2019-000X] (RIN: 2132-AB37) received November 20, 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.

3080. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clean Fuels Grant Program [Docket No.: FTA-2019-000X] (RIN: 2132-AB36) received November 20, 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.

3081. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations- Ownership Attribution for Purposes of Determining Whether a Person I Related to a Controlled Foreign Corporation; Rents Derived in the Active Conduct of a Trade or Business [TD 9883] (RIN: 1545-BM90) received November 18, 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.

3082. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Electronic Filing of the Report of Health Insurance Provider Information [TD 9881] (RIN: 1545-BN57) received November 18, 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.

3083. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Optional Standard Mileage Rates Procedures (Rev. Proc. 2019-46) received November 18, 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.

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:

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3614. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ban the use of credit information for most employment decisions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-305). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3618. A bill to establish requirements relating to credit scores and educational credit scores, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-306). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3629. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to establish clear Federal oversight of the development of credit scoring models by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-307). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROSE of New York (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5209. A bill to direct the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to design and administer a voluntary online terrorist content moderation exercise program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CROW, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRUJALVA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. VISCLOSKY):

H.R. 5210. A bill to provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, to provide for the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Hemisphere, and to modify certain special immigrant visa programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Budget, and 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. CASE (for himself and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 5211. A bill to establish a national commission on fiscal responsibility and re-

form, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 5212. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benchmarking process for the Medicare Shared Savings Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 5213. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 5214. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 5215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expensing of environmental remediation costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BASS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5216. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to revise minimum nurse staffing requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program and for nursing facilities under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. COOK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 5217. A bill to provide for western water security, reliability, modernization, and abundance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 5218. A bill to direct the Secretary concerned to coordinate with impacted parties when conducting a forest management activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5219. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require broadcasters to obtain permission to transmit content owned by another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 5220. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and cancellations of items of new direct spending and limited tax benefits; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McEACHIN (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GRUJALVA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WATERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LUJAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO,

Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 5221. A bill to declare a national goal that the United States achieve a 100 percent clean economy by not later than 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 5222. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish notification requirements for policies concerning expectant and parenting students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5223. A bill to amend the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 to adjust the affordable housing allocations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 5224. A bill to codify certain rules related to health reimbursement arrangements and other account-based group health plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. BARRAGAN):

H.R. 5225. A bill to protect victims of crime or serious labor violations from removal during Department of Homeland Security enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 5226. A bill to prohibit the use of official funds for travel by Members of Congress during a fiscal year until each of the regular appropriations bills for such fiscal year have been enacted into law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DEMINGS (for herself, Mr. LAMB, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 5227. A bill to establish the Office of Digital Law Enforcement within the Office of Justice Programs, and to establish grant programs to improve the digital evidence capacity of law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on

Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 5228. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the Federal Government's ability to hire and retain Chinese-language-capable employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5229. A bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 5230. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with regard to research on asthma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 5231. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the transportation alternatives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5232. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to remove barriers to access to residential substance use disorder treatment services under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 5233. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order issued by Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to schedule fentanyl-related substances under the Controlled Substances Act; 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. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 5234. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Motorcyclist Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5235. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require States to include a photograph on electronic benefit cards issued to provide supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. COLE, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 5236. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness

training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 5237. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate a flag as the Purple Heart Flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. COOK, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5238. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include digital breast tomosynthesis as a primary and preventative health care service under the military health system and the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 5239. A bill to require reporting on prescription drug expenditures under group health plans and on prescription drug price changes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. HOLDING, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ESTES, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5240. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the look-thru rule for related controlled foreign corporations permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 5241. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 5242. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from treating any Medicaid-related funds recovered from one or more pharmaceutical companies or drug distributors with respect to opioid litigation as an overpayment under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 5243. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a mobile hotspot grant program, 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 Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 5244. A bill to establish new units of public housing and private market affordable housing, to provide grants to combat gentrification and neighborhood destabilization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. ROSE of New York):

H.R. 5245. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a bar on the recovery of certain payments or overpayments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs by reason of delays in processing of certain information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANNETTA, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 5246. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Health in All Policies Demonstration Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5247. A bill to require prime contractors under Federal construction contracts to notify the Government of changes in certain subcontractors performing work under the contract; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5248. A bill to award a Congressional gold medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 5249. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to support women, infants, and children impacted by substance use disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WRIGHT (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 5250. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the work opportunity tax credit for veterans and to allow an exemption from an employer's employment taxes in an amount equivalent to the value of such credit in the case of veterans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H. Con. Res. 77. Concurrent resolution directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB:

H. Res. 724. A resolution condemning the human rights violations taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and supporting Kashmiri self-determination; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H. Res. 725. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. PENCE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. BAIRD):

H. Res. 726. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MCADAMS, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H. Res. 727. A resolution affirming United States support for the State of Israel's right to defend itself from terrorist attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 728. A resolution condemning the decision of Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mark A. Calabria to remove the borrower's preferred language question and the housing counseling question from the Universal Residential Loan Application; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H. Res. 729. A resolution encouraging the President to expand the list of the Department of Veterans Affairs of presumptive medical conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange to include Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension, and hypothyroidism; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELAQUEZ (for herself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SPANO, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. KIM, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. CROW, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. BOST, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LATTA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. MENG, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H. Res. 730. A resolution expressing support for the recognition and celebration of the vital role of small businesses, along with the efforts of the Small Business Administration to help Americans start, build, and grow businesses; to the Committee on Small Business.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROSE of New York:

H.R. 5209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 5210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 5211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 5212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: to provide for the general welfare of the United States

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 5213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 5214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 5215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 5217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 5218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause), which confers on Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Intellectual Property Clause, art. I, sec. 8, cl. 8, and the Commerce Clause, art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 5220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 5221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 5222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power given to Congress under Article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:
H.R. 5224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 5225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section XIII of the Constitution:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 5226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5, Clause 2: "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To . . . pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers. . . ."

By Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 5227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 5228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 5229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 5230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 5231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: "The Congress shall have Power [. . .] to establish Post Offices and Post Roads.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII Clause I

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII Clause III

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 5236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:
H.R. 5237.

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. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 5238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 5239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power*** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 5240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 5241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

Section 8—Powers of Congress. 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. MENG:

H.R. 5243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 5244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 5245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority 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. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 5249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 Mr. WRIGHT:

H.R. 5250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which states that "the Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 24: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 309: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 333: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 350: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 444: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 446: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 535: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 587: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 730: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 788: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 801: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 808: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 884: Ms. HAALAND and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 906: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 912: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 927: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 945: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 961: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1055: Mr. COSTA and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1154: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1186: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1195: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1367: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1377: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1400: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 1406: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1754: Mr. LEVIN of California and Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 1840: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1878: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1923: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1948: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1964: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1981: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1998: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2062: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2096: Ms. PORTER, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 2153: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2168: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. KILDEE.

- H.R. 2176: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 2184: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2201: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2256: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2261: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2283: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 2315: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2328: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2339: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 2382: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2466: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 2491: Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2508: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2603: Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 2651: Ms. WILD and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2655: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. VELA, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2674: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2694: Mrs. LURIA and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2731: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STAUBER, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2771: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2813: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2818: Mr. KIND, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2825: Mr. BACON and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 2881: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2952: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2985: Mr. PENCE and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3048: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3080: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3082: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3107: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3114: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 3121: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 3155: Mr. WOODALL, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. STEIL, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. KELLER, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. COOK, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. NUNES, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 3182: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3197: Mr. PANETTA and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3230: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3235: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3250: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3280: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3303: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 3373: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 3446: Mr. LEVIN of California and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3473: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3522: Mr. UPTON and Mr. REED.
H.R. 3570: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3706: Mr. SIREs.
H.R. 3762: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LONG, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3789: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3792: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3793: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3864: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3884: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3910: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3911: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3934: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3960: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3977: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3990: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 4019: Mr. CORREA and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 4022: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4118: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4141: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4148: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4179: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 4193: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4194: Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CROW, and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4227: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 4229: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 4230: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4271: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4305: Mr. ROUDA, Mr. KIND, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LAMB, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4326: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 4351: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 4371: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4436: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4456: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4482: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 4521: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 4526: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 4607: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4672: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. COOK, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WATERS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 4674: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4681: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4704: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 4722: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4723: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4735: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4781: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 4782: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4843: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4864: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 4881: Mr. GOODEN, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 4890: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. SIREs.
H.R. 4898: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 4899: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 4900: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 4903: Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4940: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4986: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4990: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4995: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5038: Mr. STEWART and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 5041: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5046: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5065: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 5076: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5078: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 5086: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 5091: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 5102: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5105: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5106: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5109: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5110: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5111: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5116: Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.
H.R. 5150: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5169: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 5175: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 5194: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5195: Mr. SERRANO.
H.J. Res. 76: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H. Res. 60: Ms. PLASKETT.
H. Res. 374: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H. Res. 452: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H. Res. 540: Ms. PORTER, Mr. KIM, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HECK, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CRIST, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. SIREs.
H. Res. 631: Mr. WATKINS.
H. Res. 641: Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 642: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H. Res. 653: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 678: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H. Res. 682: Mr. LUJÁN.
H. Res. 687: Mr. NEGUSE.
H. Res. 688: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Res. 690: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 698: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

67. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Council of the City of New York, NY, relative to Resolution No. 977, calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign H.R. 724 and S. 479, the Preventing Animal Cruelty Torture Act, otherwise known as the PACT Act; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

No. 187

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.

God, the fountain of every blessing, in this Thanksgiving season, we praise Your Holy Name. May the lives of our lawmakers please You. Inspire them to walk in Your ways, keeping Your precepts with such integrity that they will glorify Your Name. Incline their hearts to Your wisdom and provide them with the understanding they need to accomplish Your purposes.

Lord God, let Your mercy protect our Senators from the dangers of this life, as they learn to find delight in receiving Your approval. Keep them ever mindful of life's brevity and the greatness of their work.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, probably a lot of my colleagues know I have had a quarter-century interest in legislation dealing with foster care and the foster care system. This is National Adoption Month, and while recent data

from the Department of Health and Human Services show improvements for kids in foster care, it is clear that there is still work to be done.

In 2018, the average length of stay in foster care increased to over 19 months. We need to take that statistic as movement in the wrong direction. Less than half of the kids who exited foster care were reunited with their parents. Our goal ought to be to reunite them with their parents when it isn't harmful to the kids, but what I have also learned over the last 25 years from talking to kids who are in foster care, being shunted from home to home, school to school in the same school year—I have heard from them, “I would like to have a mom and dad,” and “I would like to have a permanent home.”

I have taken that to heart, and legislation that I have worked on helps with that issue. All children deserve a permanent home, and they deserve caring, consistent adults to nurture and guide them. As long as I serve in Congress, I will continue to work toward that goal.

Also, during this month of November, National Adoption Month, I hope people will take a special concern about kids who are in foster care.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Washington and the cable news channels have spent the week fixated on House Democrats' impeachment hearings.

A few months ago, Speaker PELOSI was saying she was not “for impeachment” unless it was “bipartisan.” But even after the resolution codifying the Democrats' unfair process received zero

Republican votes, the House plowed ahead anyway, searching for a way to arrive at an outcome the Democrats literally predetermined years ago.

Meanwhile, the American people are still waiting for Washington Democrats to stop blocking crucial bipartisan legislation. I spoke yesterday about the USMCA, the landmark trade deal that experts say would create 176,000 American jobs. For 9 months, Speaker PELOSI has told the press every couple of weeks that she will allow a vote soon. Last winter, she was “optimistic”; over the summer, “We want to pass this bill”; this fall, “becoming closer”; and a couple of weeks ago, “I think we are close.”

We have had months of this stalling. Now we are 1 week out from Thanksgiving, and there is still no tangible sign—none—of progress from the House. If the House cannot pass the USMCA this year, there is no way they will be able to claim that the people's business has not taken a back seat to impeachment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, the USMCA is not the only important legislation Democrats are holding up. As if neglecting the first major update to North American trade policy in a generation were not enough, they are also on track to break a nearly 60-year tradition of passing a bipartisan Defense authorization bill.

Passing the NDAA is one of Congress's most basic governing responsibilities. It authorizes and assures the ongoing missions of our Armed Forces and the resources the Department of Defense needs to carry them out.

Every year since 1961, these goals have been enough to get Members across the ideological spectrum to

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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come together and deliver a comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation—but not this year, at least not yet.

House Democrats are so intent on picking fights with the White House that they decided to play partisan games with our Armed Forces. They passed a fully party-line NDAA—not one Republican vote—for their House version on the floor. I believe it is the first time ever that either Chamber has passed a purely partisan NDAA.

The House, on a partisan basis, also included many provisions that aren't even in the jurisdiction of their Armed Services Committee. Even in conference, House Democrats are holding germane provisions hostage in order to secure partisan, nongermane provisions that literally have nothing whatsoever to do with our national security.

Their demands to treat the NDAA like a gift basket to liberal interest groups is imperiling the passage of this important legislation. We are talking about demands like a new taxpayer-funded benefit for all Federal employees and burdening farmers, ranchers, small businesses, local airports, and community water utilities with expensive new environmental liabilities—all kinds of domestic policy changes that were not in the Senate's bipartisan version and have no business bringing this crucial process to a halt.

The Senate did things the right way. We passed a bipartisan NDAA back in June, just as we do every year. That is a credit to Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and the rest of the Senate Armed Services Committee. It was a thoroughly bipartisan product, debated out in the open.

But House Democrats literally went off the rails. The House Rules Committee afforded floor debate only on a single substantive Republican amendment while they jammed through their own partisan priorities. They passed a totally partisan NDAA with zero Republican votes—none. Now they are risking the entire conference committee to insist those partisan demands wind up in the end product.

Enough is enough. The USMCA and NDAA cannot be clearer examples of bipartisan legislation that would make our country stronger.

Our Democratic friends said that they want to do more than just impeach. They say they came to Washington to do more than pick fights with the President. Well, in the next days and weeks, we will find out if they mean it.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2920

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2920) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 347.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 353.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 478.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 381.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, Rick Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 459.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 460.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 479.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso,

Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 489.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

HONG KONG

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I would like to comment on the Hong Kong legislation that we passed this week. Tuesday night, the Senate unanimously passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, led by Senators RUBIO and CARDIN, Foreign Relations Chairman RISCH, and Ranking Member MENENDEZ, and a supporting cast of colleagues. This bill is intended to spur Hong Kong officials and pro-Beijing constituencies to protect Hong Kong's autonomy and its

special relationship with the United States and to hold those committing human rights violations in Hong Kong accountable. It builds on the 1992 United States-Hong Kong Policy Act, which asserts that the United States has a "strong interest in the continued vitality, prosperity, and stability of Hong Kong." I am grateful for the leadership of the Senators who worked to advance this bill.

The issue at hand is Hong Kong's right to an independent judicial system and its unique status in a one-country, two-system construct. The bill that spurred the June protests in Hong Kong—a bill pushed by the communist Chinese central government that sought to impose extraditions from Hong Kong to mainland China—would have directly undercut this judicial independence. This bill has been withdrawn, but a number of other grievances have boiled over into protests.

Hong Kong's autonomy is under attack, and China is posturing to "mainlandize" their economy. Recent educational reforms seek to undermine Hong Kong's culture and traditions through compulsory Mandarin classes instead of the Cantonese that most Hongkongers speak. The Chinese Government will say that westerners have the wrong impression of what is going on there, that this is strictly an internal matter. We beg to differ. There are more than 85,000 American citizens in Hong Kong. Moreover, the human rights of the people of Hong Kong are directly tied to U.S. interests in Hong Kong and Hong Kong's economic prosperity.

China has threatened repercussions if the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act is enacted. I imagine China is fearful that attention to human rights abuses in Hong Kong will draw increased attention to other human rights abuses in China, such as the estimated 1.5 million Muslim Uighurs in forced detention in one of China's western provinces.

Papers leaked this week from the government of the Communist Party and General Secretary Xi detail the coercive "reeducation" that goes on in these internment camps. Christians in China also face regular persecution and imprisonment for following their faith and living out their beliefs. The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act will help shed increased light on Beijing's aggression and on human rights abuses in Hong Kong.

Last night, the House sent this Senate bill to the President's desk with a resounding 417-to-1 vote—a clear statement that Congress stands with Hong Kong.

THANKSGIVING

Madam President, a week from today, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Like every Thanksgiving, I will be home in South Dakota celebrating with my family: My wife, my daughters, my sons-in-law, and my four—soon to be five—grandchildren. I will be taking on my traditional job of carving

the turkey and helping with the dishes afterward. I am looking forward to a lot of good pie—apple pie a la mode, pumpkin, with a lot of whipped cream, and my favorite is anything in the creamed-pie family.

I am looking forward to spending time outdoors. My daughters and I traditionally go on a trail run Thanksgiving morning. It is a good way to work up an appetite for all that pie. We all enjoy throwing around a football before or after the meal. South Dakotans are pretty resilient when it comes to being out in the cold. As long as we don't have tons of snow, we like to get outdoors on Thanksgiving.

Like many South Dakotans, I love to squeeze in a little pheasant hunting over Thanksgiving, whenever I can.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. I love sitting down with my whole family—and extended family—and getting to spend time in South Dakota outdoors before winter really hits us.

Thanksgiving has a long tradition in this country. Long before the United States was a nation, various Colonies were celebrating days of thanksgiving. Our current celebration of Thanksgiving can be traced to Abraham Lincoln, who issued a proclamation in 1863 inviting a national celebration of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November.

In 1941, Congress codified the Thanksgiving holiday and permanently set the date as the fourth Thursday in November. I don't think it is too surprising that the celebration of Thanksgiving is a recurring part of our history. On Thanksgiving in my family, typically, we go around the table and say what we are thankful for. In this country, that is a pretty long list, including the tremendous natural riches of this country, from great rivers to magnificent mountains, to our wide-open access to the sea, and the tremendous freedoms that we enjoy. And in the 21st century, we enjoy freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, and other freedoms, like the freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, or excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishments. All of these freedoms that we so often take for granted are still unknown to too many people across the world.

The United States is not perfect, and we don't always get it right, but we enjoy tremendous blessings in this country. It is important not to take them for granted. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to pause and reflect on all that we have been given.

I am grateful to God for so many blessings this year. I am thankful for the great blessing of my family—my dad, Harold, a World War II aviator who will turn 100 next month; my brothers and sister; my wife Kimberly, the best thing in my life; my beautiful daughters and my sons-in-law; and our grandchildren, pretty much the most amazing grandchildren ever, in my own unbiased opinion.

I am thankful for the great State of South Dakota, for our fresh air and wide-open spaces, from the prairies of farm country to the rugged terrain of the Black Hills.

South Dakotans are a resilient, kind, and gracious people, and I am thankful every day that I am lucky enough to call South Dakota home.

I am also tremendously grateful for the work I get to do. Getting to represent South Dakotans in the Senate is one of the great privileges of my life. While it has been a contentious year with a divided Congress, I have still had the chance to continue to work on important issues affecting people in my State and around the country, like helping our Nation's farmers and ranchers in this tough agriculture economy.

I am grateful for the privilege of living in this great country, and I am grateful for all the men and women who put their lives on the line every single day to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Our military men and women represent the very best of America, and I am grateful every day for their service and for their sacrifice.

In that 1863 proclamation of Thanksgiving Day that I mentioned, Abraham Lincoln, in his referring to the blessings America had experienced even in the midst of the horrors of the Civil War, said:

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.

God has blessed us with very great gifts in this country, and it is, indeed, fit and proper that we should dedicate a day to reverently and gratefully acknowledge them.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKSGIVING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me thank my friend from South Dakota for his wonderful words on Thanksgiving.

I was going to conclude with Thanksgiving, but I will start with it. It is a great holiday. It is a great American holiday. I love it, and my family loves it. I was born on Thanksgiving Day. My new grandson was born on November 24, so he will have birthdays on Thanksgiving as well. This year, for the first time, the SCHUMERS will celebrate with four generations, because my parents, who also served in the Army Air Force in World War II—my dad, 96, and my mom, 91—will be there with their little great-grandson, Noah. We are blessed.

Thanksgiving is family and food. What could be better than that? They are two great parts of the holiday. I

will not carve the turkey like THUNE does because it would get all screwed up, but I can dole out the mashed potatoes—I am good at that—which is probably what they will have me do. It is a great holiday, and we do have a great deal to thank God and the country for.

The wonderful thing about Thanksgiving is, from its origins during the Civil War—one of the worst, most horrible times in America, with so much death and mayhem and division—people were still grateful for America, and we are today. It is an amazing place. My father was an exterminator, and I am a U.S. Senator. What an amazing country this is, and we should never stop trying to make it better. I try to do that every day. I am thankful that I live in a country in which you can try to make it better.

I am thankful for many, many things—family, with our new addition this year. Iris and I are so happy about that. We have great kids and a great daughter-in-law and son-in-law. There is just a lot to be thankful for, and it is nice to take a pause, amidst all the fighting and partisanship here, to be grateful.

IMPEACHMENT

Madam President, now, on some more legislative, Senatorial, governmental subjects, the Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, provided some of the most significant testimony yesterday in the House impeachment inquiry to date.

Ambassador Sondland asserted a “quid pro quo,” linking the offer of a White House meeting—an official act—in exchange for Ukrainian officials’ announcing an investigation into Burisma and the 2016 elections. President Trump tried to rebut that quid pro quo by saying he told Sondland on the phone there was no quid pro quo. Donald Trump is not known for telling the truth, particularly when his own self-interest is at stake. So it doesn’t stand up very well compared to Sondland’s words.

Sondland went on to testify to his understanding that President Trump’s suspension of military aid to Ukraine was also conditioned on the announcement of these same investigations. Those investigations, of course, had nothing to do with national security or any other interests of the United States. On the contrary, they were solely in President Trump’s personal, political interests.

Ambassador Sondland also testified that Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Perry, Chief of Staff Mulvaney, and other senior advisers to those individuals were well aware of these activities and the connection between White House policy and requests from the President to have Ukraine announce investigations that would be politically advantageous to President Trump.

Let me repeat: Those individuals I just mentioned—Pompeo, Perry, Mulvaney, and a few of their senior advisers—were identified by Ambassador

Sondland as having information and knowledge of the events that are central to this impeachment inquiry. All of them are currently refusing to testify, are defying subpoenas from the House of Representatives, and, in some cases, are challenging those subpoenas in court.

This morning, I would strongly urge the courts that have jurisdiction over these cases to quickly resolve them. The individuals named in these subpoenas are fact witnesses in the pending House impeachment inquiry. In addition, these officials and others are withholding evidence in the form of documents that are, unquestionably, material to the impeachment inquiry. Ambassador Sondland’s testimony demonstrated even more pointedly why it is so essential that the witnesses who have been summoned must comply and why the courts should promptly enforce House subpoenas in the pending cases.

When I hear the courts say that in 5 weeks or in 6 weeks, they will have court hearings or decisions—I have never practiced in these Washington courts; I have a law degree, but I am not a practicing lawyer—I don’t understand, and I think Americans don’t understand why the courts take so long when there is such an important issue before them. All of the judges have a responsibility to make decisions quickly and soon so that if they agree that these people should be compelled to testify—and I don’t know what the decisions will be—that their testimony would be received in a timely manner.

We have two groups of people at the moment. One group is testifying under oath in the House inquiry that there was a “quid pro quo” and substantial wrongdoing. Another group is denying any wrongdoing but is refusing to comply with subpoenas or to testify under oath. If these individuals feel they have exculpatory evidence to provide or that the testimony provided to the House is incorrect, they should testify under oath. Otherwise, the American people will rightly wonder why they refuse to do so.

Let me just repeat what I said in the last few days: If Donald Trump tweets away at how wrong these witnesses are, let him come before the committee, under oath, and testify to what he tweets. Speaker PELOSI has said she would welcome President Trump’s coming and testifying. President Trump has not been silent on these issues. He has been tweeting away—ridiculing the witnesses and saying what they have said is wrong. Well, if he is right, has nothing to hide, and wants to convince the American people and the House of Representatives, let him come under oath and tell his side of the story. When he doesn’t come under oath—and he can do it tomorrow or in the next few days—the American people will ask: Mr. President, what are you hiding? What are you not telling the truth about?

APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, on appropriations, later today, the Senate is set to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 20, which will send it to the President's desk. I am optimistic that the passage of the continuing resolution today will be something from which Congress can build—a sign that appropriators from both sides of the aisle will be ready to work together to settle government funding by the end of the calendar year.

With another month's time at our disposal, the appropriations process can now go down one of two paths. On the first path, President Trump stays out of our way and gives Congress the space to work together and find agreement. On the second path, President Trump stomps his feet, makes impossible demands, and prevents his party—the Republicans—from coming to a fair arrangement.

The first path leads to a bipartisan deal on appropriations and guaranteed, long-term funding for both Republican and Democratic priorities. The second path leads, as we all know, to another Trump government shutdown. I hope the passage of the continuing resolution will be the first step down the bipartisan path that will lead to successful agreement by the end of the year.

HONG KONG

Madam President, on Hong Kong, 2 days ago, the Senate passed legislation, by unanimous consent, committing the United States to stand with the brave citizens of Hong Kong, who are now engaged in a fierce struggle to defend their civil and human rights. Last night, the House of Representatives followed suit by a vote of 417 to 1. Only a short time ago, I took part in a bipartisan signing ceremony for the legislation. Now it will head straight to the President's desk. Congress has just sent an unmistakable message to the Chinese Communist Party that the United States stands with the people of Hong Kong.

President Xi, the U.S. Government has spoken. This legislation represents what America really thinks about your policies toward Hong Kong, not what President Trump may whisper in your ear. This legislation shows what Americans think about the Chinese Communist Party's treatment of Hong Kong.

I would say to President Xi and to the Chinese leadership, the Communist Party leadership: You cannot be a great nation when you oppose freedom, deny civil liberties, and brutally suppress your own people from one end of China to the other, as the Chinese Communist Party has done to the people of Hong Kong, to the Uighurs, and to the millions of citizens whose voices have been silenced and whose rights have been trampled on by the Chinese Government.

To the people of China, we stand with you in freedom.

To the students and young people in Hong Kong, we stand with you.

To the Uighurs, who simply want to practice their religion, we stand with you.

I believe that freedom will prevail and that the Chinese system will either change or it will fail. History is not kind to those who peddle in autocracy and suppression.

I thank all of my colleagues. This was one of the rare, fine, bipartisan moments on the floor of the Senate. Our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—the Senators from Florida and Idaho, Messrs. RUBIO and RISCH; the Senators from Maryland and New Jersey, Messrs. CARDIN and MENENDEZ; as well as Senator MERKLEY and Senator CORNYN—all worked hard to put together a very strong bill, and we came together. This has been an important bipartisan moment. It goes to show how Congress is still capable of doing big things.

As we enter the Thanksgiving break, we should think about the other issues we could debate, about the other bipartisan bills on which we could vote, those of lowering the cost of prescription drugs, of securing our elections, of helping our veterans, and more. Passing bipartisan legislation should be the rule, not the exception.

It has been several weeks since we have had a real debate and a vote on any legislation in this Chamber. I hope that in the final weeks of this year, Leader MCCONNELL will begin to listen to the pleas from both sides of the aisle to get the Senate working again.

A happy Thanksgiving to one and all. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I come to the floor with the senior Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN, to celebrate a great anniversary.

Two hundred years ago this week, the very first newspaper in Arkansas was published. It was called the Arkansas Gazette. We know it today as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. It is the oldest paper west of the Mississippi, an institution in our State, and a credit to the many outstanding journalists who have made it possible over two centuries.

From its first issue, the Arkansas Gazette was a pioneering newspaper, published by a young man named William Woodruff who crossed the mighty Mississippi into brandnew territory, dragging behind him a wooden printing press and other tools of the trade.

The Gazette was first published out of a log cabin in the territorial capital, Arkansas Post. It reflected the bold aspirations of American settlers moving West to fulfill our manifest destiny on the continent, and it reflected these landlocked settlers' keen awareness that events far beyond out little plot of soil could shape their lives in dramatic ways.

The first story in the very first edition reported on a Navy expedition to

open the Pacific Northwest for American traders. It speculated with excitement about the prosperity that would flow to our Nation as Americans followed Lewis and Clark west across the country. "The plan may appear visionary," the Gazette remarked, "but that which is now speculation will . . . shortly become a fact, and this country will be enriched by the overflowings of its benefit."

As the Arkansas Territory grew, Arkansas's newspaper grew with it. Woodruff moved the paper from Arkansas Post to Little Rock in 1821, where it would continue to be published for the next 198 years with few exceptions, such as a devastating fire in the 1850s and military occupation during the Civil War.

Just as Arkansas kept its rough-hewn, pioneer character, so too did Arkansas's newspaper, whose staff were involved in not one but two gun battles, including the last recorded duel in Arkansas history—between, I am compelled to report, the owners of the Gazette and its upstart competitor, the Democrat.

If William Woodruff was the founding father of the Democrat-Gazette, John Netherland Heiskell was its Lincoln, bringing the paper triumphantly into maturity. Heiskell became editor in 1902 and served in that position for an incredible 70 years until his passing in 1972. The one interruption in Heiskell's remarkable tenure came in 1913, when the Governor selected him to serve as a U.S. Senator after the death of a sitting Senator. He only served in this body for 23 days before a successor was elected, and then he hurried back to Little Rock and to the Gazette because the news waits for no man.

Over the next half-century, the Gazette established itself as a world-class newspaper. It was during this period that the Gazette took a bold stand for truth in the finest tradition of journalism by declaring its support for desegregation well ahead of the pack in 1957. The Gazette and its editorial writer, Harry Ashmore, covered the turmoil surrounding Little Rock's integration with decency and firmness, insisting that Arkansas fulfill its obligation to all our citizens on an equal basis, without regard to race. This editorial crusade lost more than a few subscriptions, but it won the Gazette two Pulitzer Prizes "for demonstrating," in the words of the Pulitzer committee, "the highest qualities of civic leadership, journalistic responsibility, and moral courage." And so the Arkansas Gazette entered the modern era as a famous and award-winning publication.

In 1991, after years known as "the newspaper wars," the Gazette's old rival, the Democrat, bought the paper and created what we now know as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Fortunately, I hasten to add, no duels were needed this time around. Now, the Democrat-Gazette is again changing with the times through the capable

leadership of Walter Hussman, his family, and David Bailey, the managing editor. This time, the paper is transforming for the digital era, moving from paper to screen, and it is even giving away free iPads to subscribers to ease the transition. So if you are not already a subscriber, consider supporting our local journalism in Arkansas. It has a bright future ahead.

Today, unfortunately, many venerable newspaper have fallen on hard times. Too many journalists can't be bothered to get the story right. Too many local communities are losing parts of their identity, which is all the more reason to celebrate newspapers like the Democrat-Gazette, which do get the story right and have preserved their distinctive character throughout the years.

Some things may change. The Democrat-Gazette of the future may be heralded by the bright glow of the screen rather than the rustle of the news page. But other, more important things stay the same, such as integrity, impartiality, and credibility. The Democrat-Gazette holds its reporters to the highest standards of accuracy and ethics.

Walter Hussman publishes these high standards that won the Gazette two Pulitzer Prizes every day on page 2 of the newspaper in its statement of core values. That statement reads:

Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium and impartiality is the greatest source of credibility.

The Democrat-Gazette practices what it preaches, and for that reason, it continues to succeed 200 years on.

There is also its Arkansas focus. As ever, the Democrat-Gazette earnestly pursues stories in Arkansas for the benefit of Arkansans. It is this proud local focus which has made the Democrat-Gazette a beloved institution in Arkansas and which will sustain it in the years ahead. Finally, the pioneer spirit—from the Arkansas Territory to the frontiers of digital journalism, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette will travel confidently into the future.

Today, I join Senator BOOZMAN in congratulating the Hussman family, the Democrat-Gazette, and all of their many hard-working professionals and journalists.

I yield the floor to my colleague, the senior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, it is a pleasure to be with my friend and colleague from Arkansas to talk about a tremendous State institution, something that is truly a true Arkansas institution, and we want to pay tribute to it and the men and women who made it great in the past and will continue to make it great into the future.

Newspapers have played a vital role in our country's history of public discourse, increasing our knowledge and awareness about what takes place all around us. The stories they print keep us informed, while building a sense of community and regional identity. Newspapers drive political debates and set the agenda, helping us make sense of the issues impacting our world.

As one of the oldest continuously published newspapers west of the Mississippi, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette has been a resource of information that has kept readers connected to community, the State, and our Nation for 200 years.

In 1819, William E. Woodruff published the first edition of the Arkansas Gazette, the Arkansas Territory's first newspaper. There was no shortage of news to print in those days. During its early years, the publication encouraged settlement to the region, shared news of national importance, and promoted statehood.

For generations, this publication has been a primary source of reliable and comprehensive news that has shaped the way Arkansans view the world. It has constantly challenged the status quo and examined the decisions of elected leaders, while pursuing transparency and accountability.

The work the Gazette produced often resulted in positive change in the Natural State. In 1957, the newspaper opposed Governor Orval Faubus's decision to prevent integration of Little Rock Central High School. For its reporting on the struggles of integration, the Gazette earned two Pulitzer Prizes, one for meritorious public service and the other awarded to its executive editor, Harry Ashmore, for editorial writing, marking the first time a newspaper won two Pulitzer Prizes in the same year.

The newspaper and its spirited competitor, the Arkansas Democrat, contended for readers and advertisers for decades. In 1991, the Gazette was sold to the owners of the Arkansas Democrat, who then launched the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, which is the only statewide newspaper Arkansans read today.

The importance of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in today's media landscape cannot be overstated. In some cases, it is the sole source of news for many small towns in Arkansas, as local newspapers continue to cease operations, especially those serving rural areas.

Under the leadership of Walter Hussman, Jr., the Democrat-Gazette is navigating the challenging industry landscape and creating opportunities to keep readers informed by keeping costs manageable. Hussman and his team are rethinking how and what news they deliver to readers, as well as how subscribers can and like to consume it.

To cut printing and transportation costs and combat declining advertisement revenue, the paper is now using iPads to maintain subscribers and continue providing this valuable, not-easily-replaced service to the community.

In an interview earlier this year about efforts at the Democrat-Gazette, Hussman noted his view that the print model is not sustainable, but he voiced his commitment to finding a solution that will fill the void because, as he says, society and our democracy will be impeded if we don't have newspapers.

It is a simple truth. Throughout periods of change, Hussman and the newspaper he owns continue to believe in the critical role that news gathering and reporting play in informing the public.

Every day, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and the other publications owned by the Hussman family publish a statement of core values that include "objectivity, impartiality, integrity and truth-seeking." This clear, sensible mantra consistently helps guide the work done by the reporters and editors in the paper's newsrooms.

Journalism is a pillar of our democracy. Our Founders understood the importance of a free press and included protections in the First Amendment that safeguard and ensure the ability of reporters and the publications they write for to hold the powerful to account.

Earlier this year, I was proud to support the World Press Freedom Day resolution and recognize the sacrifices journalists around the world make in their effort to report the truth.

We must continue to promote a free and open press in the United States and around the globe. In today's climate, we all share responsibility for acknowledging the value and the necessity of press freedom while at the same time not shrinking away from appropriate scrutiny and fair criticism. The health and well-being of our society and civic life depends on striking the right balance in this regard.

For 200 years, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette has kept individuals informed about moments and events of significance in Arkansas, our country, and the world. I congratulate the newspaper's leaders and staff for pursuing facts and accountability, as they have created and sustained the publication as a responsible and reliable source of information.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIPARTISAN AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I want to first say thank you to my colleagues, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and Senators CAPITO, PORTMAN, JONES, KAINE, DUCKWORTH, BROWN, CASEY, DURBIN, WARNER, SINEMA, VAN HOLLEN, and REED, who have cosponsored this legislation with me, for standing with me to protect coal miners' pensions and healthcare, and specifically Senator CAPITO, who will be joining me here on the floor today.

Yesterday marked the 51st anniversary of the Farmington No. 9 disaster, where 78 coal miners lost their lives in the Consolidation Coal Company's No. 9 mine in Farmington, WV, which is my hometown. I lost my uncle John Gouzd in that mine explosion, I lost my neighbor John Sopuch, and I lost several of my classmates in that tragedy that rocked my hometown. It seems like only yesterday.

I have always said that one life lost while on the job is one too many. It

shouldn't happen. This tragedy shows the risk our coal miners take every day to provide our country with the energy we need, which is why I am here today.

When coal companies go bankrupt, coal miners' benefits are at the bottom of the priority list, which is how we have ended up in this situation today, and that is unacceptable. It should be unacceptable to all of us.

The person who earns the wage should be on the front end of the line when a bankruptcy happens, and whatever happens, they are taken care of first. Time is running out for our coal miners. We need it fixed now—not in a few weeks, not in 2020, but now. Year after year, our coal miners risk their lives to bring America the energy needed to become the world leader that we are today. Our coal miners made a commitment to our country, and now, it is our turn to uphold the commitment we made to them in 1946 by securing their hard-earned pensions in healthcare.

Let me tell you about the coal that we have in our country and has been mined by our hard-working coal miners since the beginning of the 20th century. That coal basically has fueled every war that we have been in, helped us win every war, helped propel us to the industrial might that we are today, built our factories. It has done everything for us, and all we are doing now is trying to make sure that the people that sacrificed all these years are taken care of.

We have 1,000 coal miners who will lose their healthcare coverage on December 31 of this year, a little over a month from now. We also have 12,000 more coal miners who will lose their healthcare in March of next year, and that is only 4 months away. This is an issue that must be dealt with immediately, and time is running out. If you are one of those 1,000 coal miners and one of your family members is depending on their healthcare—probably life-supporting healthcare—and they are thinking they are going to lose it at the end of this month, it is unconscionable for us to walk out of here and not get this piece of legislation down. With it being so bipartisan—having the majority leader from Kentucky representing the coal miners of Kentucky—this is something that needs to be done immediately, and I know that we can.

But if we don't pass this legislation to protect our miners, the UMWA pension fund will be insolvent by this time next year. With the largest privately owned coal company, Murray Energy, filing for bankruptcy 2 weeks ago, the timeline for the UMWA pension fund moved up 2 years. It accelerated a basically exacerbating position that we were in to begin with. Murray Energy, to date, has contributed over 97 percent of the money going into the UMWA pension fund annually because of the size of their company, which is why its bankruptcy has accelerated the situation we are in today with the pension fund insolvency.

Once the UMWA pension fund would become insolvent if we don't do something, this crisis will snowball and impact every other multi-employer pension fund in America. They will all start tumbling, along with the PBGC, which is a federally funded pension guarantee. That is why it is essential that we protect our coal miners' pensions now—not next year or the year after that—which is why my colleagues and I introduced the Bipartisan American Miners Act.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act would amend the current Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer funds in excess of the amounts needed to be meet existing obligations under the Abandoned Mine Land fund to the 1974 Pension Plan to prevent its looming insolvency. It also raises the cap on these funds from \$490 million to \$750 million to ensure that there is sufficient funding for those pension funds.

It also guarantees lifetime healthcare for the 13,000 individuals, including the 1,000 scheduled to lose their healthcare on December 31 of this year, by amending the Coal Act to include 2018 and 2019 bankruptcies in the miners' healthcare fix that passed in 2017. The funding for coal miners' pensions is already there. It just needs to be reallocated. These actions will secure the pensions of 92,000 coal miners and their families and protect healthcare benefits for 13,000 miners. That is our goal, and I am proud to be here fighting for these miners today because they surely have fought for me and given me the great country that I live in today.

These miners took home less pay every day from their paycheck with the expectations that they will be able to retire and provide for their families after working for decades for our country. They have paid what they are trying to receive. It is not something they are asking for, a handout. They are not asking for a Government handout or taxpayer handout. They are just wanting the money that they invested and paid into all of these years. It is money they did not take out.

Workers expect the wages they have contributed to be there when they retire, as they were promised. If we pass the Bipartisan American Miners Act as an amendment to the continuing resolution, we will protect coal miners' pensions and healthcare now before it is too late. The Bipartisan American Miners Act is ready to be voted on and has the support from both sides of the aisles. I just read off a list of our sponsors.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act is basically a piece of legislation that needs to be done immediately. If we don't pass it now, 1,000 miners, as I said before, will lose their healthcare on December 31. Healthcare benefits will be terminated, as we talked about, and then by early September 2020, the pension benefits of 82,000 current pensioners and 10,000 future pensioners

could be drastically reduced because of the plan's insolvency.

I want to remind you also that the average pension of a coal miner is less than \$600 a month. Most of these are widows. Their husbands have passed on, and they are living on this as a subsistence basically for their income. It would be tremendously harmful for them not to be able to receive this.

I believe that we can and will pass this legislation before it is too late for these miners as an amendment to the CR. That is all we are asking for. It must be done before and no later than December 20. I am trying to get this on now so that we can move forward.

Can you imagine being one of the 1,000 coal miners, maybe having one of your loved ones—your wife or one of your children—who has a serious illness and needs attention and knowing they are not going to be able to get attention basically to any healthcare after December 31, so put yourself in their shoes.

These are the families that deserve the peace of mind knowing that their pensions are going to be paid and their paycheck—that they did not take the money home—is going to be secure. We can give them peace of mind today. I look forward to passing this legislation with all of my colleagues. It is bipartisan. This is the first time we have had something of this magnitude being done in a bipartisan way. The good Lord knows we need more bipartisan efforts to work for the people.

If we are going to stand for the working men and women that made America, what is our purpose of being here, and who do we stand for? So I am asking all of you, please, with the urgency that is needed, please take up this piece of legislation. Please take up this amendment to the CR, and let's take care of the people that helped make America as great as we are today, the coal miners of the United Mine Workers of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am really pleased to be here with my fellow West Virginia Senator, Mr. MANCHIN. We have joined each other on this topic before, but he has been a real champion for our miners, and I am really grateful to him and others who have participated, but I think we have got to talk about this every day and make sure that we underscore the urgent need to pass the Bipartisan American Miners Act. I appreciate Senator MANCHIN and certainly appreciate Leader MCCONNELL who has been a

champion for our miners as well—Senator Portland as well—who have made this retirement security a top priority.

Back in 2017, time was running out on the healthcare benefits for 12,000 retired miners. I remember it well, particularly following the Patriot Coal bankruptcy. We came together as a bipartisan group to pass legislation with the House that protected healthcare for those men and women. While we are in a similar situation today, which we knew we were going to be here, the Senate needs to act soon to save the healthcare of 13,000 retired miners and protect the pension benefits of 92,000 people.

Time is of the essence here because roughly 1,000 retirees from Westmoreland and Mission Coal will lose their healthcare at the end of the year if we do not act; 12,000 more could lose their healthcare by next spring, and the pension benefits are at risk in 2020. This is a critical, critical issue for my State and many others.

I am going to take a brief moment to explain how this legislation works, and it is a bit complicated. In 2006, when we passed the last reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program, we had a capped permanent direct appropriation that was created for transfer of payments. That permanent direct appropriation, along with the interest on the AML—the Abandoned Mine Land—trust fund has been used to fund AML payments to certified States and to provide healthcare for our miners. What do we do to certify States? The whole point of the AML is to do reclamation and repair of previously mined lands all throughout our country.

That permanent direct appropriation has been used for the payments for the certified States and also to provide healthcare to our orphaned miners. Well, for those who are not from a coal company, what is an orphaned miner? An orphaned miner is someone who earned a vested right to retiree healthcare benefits through years of hard work but worked for a company that either no longer exists or is no longer financially solvent.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act makes use of the same appropriation that was created in 2006 to cover the healthcare for retirees whose healthcare would be lost due to the bankruptcies in 2018, 2019. The bill would provide resources to guarantee the long-term solvency of the mine workers' pension fund. This is critical. Previous versions of this bill that many of us supported were able to accomplish this goal of protecting those retirement beneficiaries without lifting the cap on the direct appropriation that was set in 2006.

Because Congress has delayed action for so long, our current legislation must lift the cap in order to provide healthcare and pension benefits for our miners. Protecting these benefits is a top priority for me because it impacts so many mining families and commu-

nities in West Virginia. Just last weekend, I talked to three miners directly impacted, just kind of randomly ran into them in different areas of our State.

But I think it is important to understand that this bill does not place other policy items in jeopardy. That is a misconception. Passing this bill does not disturb the principal balance of the AML trust fund. That means we are not jeopardizing funds that are used to clean up abandoned mine sites, and passing this bill will not cut funding for other transfer payments that are authorized by the law.

What the bill will do is protect retirement benefits for tens of thousands of retired miners and their families—benefits that have been worked for, benefits that have been earned through the hard work in our mines; 25,451 West Virginians received benefits from the pension fund during 2018. They were joined by more than 11,000 Pennsylvanians, 8,500 Kentuckians, and thousands more from Illinois, Virginia, Alabama, and Ohio. The pension benefits of all the men and women are at risk if Congress fails to act.

The average benefit—listen to this—the average benefit for our miners is \$590 a month, so these are not lavish benefits, but they are critical to our retirees. One retired miner from Logan, WV, who worked for 36 years in the mines, wrote me and said, “Please keep fighting to save our pension. I receive \$303.34 monthly. We need this badly to help us pay for our food, our medicine and other bills.”

A miner from Richwood, WV, who mined coal for 17 years, wrote, “My monthly check is \$192. It is not a lot of money, but it means a lot to my ability to make ends meet.”

I would add to both of these, these men, these gentlemen, they worked for these pensions. They paid into the pensions. They should receive them. Pension benefits from the mine workers plan went to individuals in all 55 West Virginian counties, so this is truly an issue that impacts my entire State. But in the areas that have the largest number of pensioners, which is Raleigh, Logan, Wyoming, Marion, and Boone Counties, cuts to the pension and healthcare benefits of our retired families would have significant impacts on our entire community.

If these retirees face severe reductions in their pensions, it means less money spent at the local businesses, less money at a local restaurant, and it would cause further economic harm to the areas that cannot afford another blow.

So I ask my colleagues to join me, Senator MANCHIN, Leader McCONNELL, Senator PORTMAN, and many others, by supporting the Bipartisan American Miners Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on

the Brouillette nomination occur at 1:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to present an amendment to this bill. My amendment is simple, and it reflects the kind of commonsense budgeting we ought to be doing in Washington. Today I offer the penny plan for infrastructure. This plan cuts one penny, 1 percent of all spending, and puts that money in a fund for infrastructure.

My amendment would put about \$12 billion per year into a fund to fix our roads and bridges. Every agency would still get 99 percent of the spending they got the previous year. Sure, they would need to trim some fat, but they would still be fine. A lot of businesses and organizations will tell you they have to cut much greater than 1 percent a year.

I visited a business recently that in the downturn of 2008–2009 had to cut 30 percent of their expenditures. Business men and women in America are used to having to cut expenditures; government never does.

Whether it is our highways or our bridges or our waterways, our infrastructure in America is falling behind. Everyone knows it, but like so many things, Washington can't figure out how to fix it, how to find the money to fix it.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle talk about trillion-dollar infrastructure plans but offer no way to pay for it. My plan is much more modest, doesn't increase taxes, and doesn't increase our debt. The penny plan for infrastructure pays for it with money we have already allocated.

To be clear, we do have the money. Washington just spends it in inappropriate ways. Washington spends, for example, \$233 million on a single highway in Afghanistan. We have money to pave roads in Afghanistan, but they will not vote to spend the money here to pave roads.

The people in Afghanistan got \$233 million for a road, but they couldn't even maintain it, so we gave them another \$22 million to maintain the road.

We spent \$326 million to pave 2,000 kilometers of dirt roads in Afghanistan. We have enough money to spend over \$300 million to pave dirt roads in Afghanistan, but we can't come up with \$1 billion to help our infrastructure here. They were supposed to pave 2,000 kilometers; it turned out they only paved 159 kilometers. They paved less than 10 percent of what they actually promised to do with the money. What is that equal to—\$2.7 million per mile.

It is outrageous, and it goes on year after year after year. I think it is time we try a new way. Just in Afghanistan, we have spent more than the Marshall Plan did to rebuild Europe after the devastation of World War II, and we are still there, spending good money after bad. So when people come up here and

say that a 1-percent cut would somehow be a disaster, we need to remind them that the money is there. They just have to listen to the people and pull the plug on this kind of crazy spending overseas.

My amendment would move 1 percent of current spending, and it would put that 1 percent of the current spending bill into infrastructure.

Supposedly, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all agree on infrastructure. Yet we don't allocate more money to it because we are too busy paving roads in Afghanistan. If we did this, it would be about \$12 billion. It is not enough to fix everything in the country. It is a modest sum. This is actually a modest proposal to move over a few billion dollars.

Do you know what it would do? Twelve billion dollars would pave up to 6,200 miles of a new four-lane highway, resurface 20,000 miles of a four-lane highway, and 2,200 miles of a six-lane interstate. It would pay for multiple big-ticket infrastructure projects that are currently stuck without funding. In my State, they have been advocating money for the Brent Spence Bridge across the Ohio River since before I was elected—8 or 9 years of advocating for a bridge for which we can't find the money. We have the money. Quit paving roads in Afghanistan, and let's start building bridges and paving roads here.

This amendment would improve our infrastructure, benefit our communities, eliminate government waste, and help our economy. By cutting 1 percent of the current spending, we will force all of government to do a better job.

There is at least 1 percent waste. There is probably 10 percent waste in government. I am asking to cut 1 percent of waste. Take that money you cut by making government more efficient and put it into infrastructure.

I encourage the Senate to consider this amendment. I think we have very few amendments come forward where people have a chance to vote for infrastructure.

At this point, I move to concur on the House amendment to the Senate amendment—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator suspend?

Mr. PAUL. At this point, I am about ready to do that.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, AND FURTHER HEALTH EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3055) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and

Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.", with an amendment to the Senate amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1250

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, with a further amendment numbered 1250.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, with an amendment numbered 1250.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the amount appropriated by 1 percent and put the savings towards the Highway Trust Fund and certain Environmental Protection Agency Infrastructure Assistance)

At the appropriate place in division A, add the following:

SEC. ____ . REDUCTION IN RATE FOR OPERATIONS.

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020 (division A of Public Law 116-59) is further amended by inserting after section 150, as added by section 101 of this division, the following:

"SEC. 151. REDUCTION IN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE SAVINGS FOR THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE.

"(a) REDUCTION IN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the rate for operations provided by section 101 is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The rate for operations shall not be reduced under paragraph (1) for the following:

"(A) Amounts made available from the Highway Trust Fund established by section 9503(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(B) Amounts for purposes described in section 147.

"(C) For the Environmental Protection Agency, Infrastructure Assistance, amounts made available for the following:

"(i) The Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

"(ii) The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Account.

"(iii) The America's Water Infrastructure Act Grant Programs under section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a).

"(b) TRANSFER OF SAVINGS.—

"(1) DETERMINATION OF SAVINGS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the amount of the reduction in amounts made available under section 101 of this division that is attributable to subsection (a).

"(2) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount determined under paragraph (1), as follows:

"(A) For the Highway Trust Fund established by section 9503(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 95 percent of such amount.

"(B) For the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, 3 percent of such amount.

"(C) For the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Account, 1 percent of such amount.

"(D) For the America's Water Infrastructure Act Grant Programs under section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a), 1 percent of such amount.

"(3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts transferred under paragraph (2) shall remain available until expended."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to table the Paul amendment, but I just want to say a few words.

This continuing resolution before the Senate holds spending at the fiscal 2019 levels. An arbitrary 1-percent across-the-board cut on top of this—although it sounds good—would be extremely harmful to our agencies, particularly our military.

The Senate handily defeated similar amendments just recently, and I hope we will do this today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be brief.

I agree with the distinguished senior Senator from Alabama. The Paul amendment imposes a 1-percent across-the-board cut over last year's funding level to the vast majority of discretionary spending for the duration of the CR.

I hope all Members—Republican and Democratic alike—will oppose it because it would mean arbitrary cuts in defense and other national security programs, cuts to veterans' healthcare, education, childcare, opioid programs, just to name a few. It is a simplistic tool that ignores the complexities of our Federal budget. It is not a way we should govern.

We have the hard work of making hard choices to fund programs each year based on reality. That is what we should do. That is what the American people deserve.

I support increased investment in our Nation's infrastructure. I would be happy to work with Senator PAUL to ensure these programs receive the resources they require.

I hope he might be able to get some support from the Trump administration, which has consistently proposed cutting resources to improve our Nation's infrastructure. I hope he might be able to get that kind of support, but funding it through an across-the-board cut on all other programs, including veterans healthcare, national security, and education programs is irresponsible. It is not the answer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to table the Paul amendment and 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 363 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Collins, Coons, Cortez Masto, Cramer, Duckworth, Durbin, Enzi, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Hawley, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Kaine, King, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Perdue, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rounds, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Scott (FL), Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith, Stabenow, Tester, Thune, Toomey, Udall, Van Hollen, Warner, Whitehouse, Wicker, Wyden, Young.

NAYS—20

Table listing Senators who voted 'NAYS' with names in three columns: Barrasso, Blackburn, Braun, Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Daines, Ernst, Fischer, Kennedy, Lankford, Lee, McSally, Paul, Risch, Romney, Sasse, Scott (SC), Sullivan, Tillis.

NOT VOTING—7

Table listing Senators who did not vote with names in three columns: Booker, Cassidy, Cotton, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren.

The motion was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055.

CLOTURE MOTION

I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending Sep-

tember 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, Lamar Alexander, Susan M. Collins, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, Lamar Alexander, Susan M. Collins, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations to the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 364 Leg.]

YEAS—75

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Boozman, Casey, Collins, Coons, Cornyn, Cortez Masto, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Enzi, Hoeven, Jones, Kaine, King, Lankford, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, McSally, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Grassley, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith.

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Jones, Kaine, Kennedy, King, Lankford, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, McSally, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Scott (SC), Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith, Stabenow, Sullivan, Tester, Thune, Udall, Van Hollen, Warner, Whitehouse, Wicker, Wyden, Young.

NAYS—19

Table listing Senators who voted 'NAYS' with names in three columns: Blackburn, Braun, Cruz, Daines, Enzi, Ernst, Fischer, Hawley, Inhofe, Lee, Paul, Perdue, Risch, Romney, Rounds, Sasse, Scott (FL), Tillis, Toomey.

NOT VOTING—6

Table listing Senators who did not vote with names in three columns: Booker, Cassidy, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 19.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 365 Leg.]

YEAS—74

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Collins, Coons, Cornyn, Cortez Masto, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Jones, Kaine, King, Lankford, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, McSally, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Grassley, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith.

Stabenow	Udall	Wicker
Sullivan	Van Hollen	Wyden
Tester	Warner	Young
Thune	Whitehouse	

NAYS—20

Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Daines	Paul	Scott (SC)
Enzi	Perdue	Tillis
Ernst	Risch	Toomey
Fischer	Romney	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Warren

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3055

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 75, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 75) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3055.

There being no objection, the senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 (H. Con. Res. 75) was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 386.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

Kevin Cramer, David Perdue, Ben Sasse, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Rick Scott, James E. Risch, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 150

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor again with respect to S. Res. 150, which I introduced with Senator CRUZ, to recognize the Armenian Genocide. I am glad that he is with me today in a call for unanimous consent on this resolution. We are proud to report that we have 28 sponsors on this important resolution.

Last month, the House of Representatives passed a version of this resolution by a vote of 405-11-405-11. That sent a strong bipartisan message of dedication to the truth—dedication to historical fact, dedication to a principle held by so many in Congress—that genocide is genocide.

As a country, we should do whatever we can to prevent future genocides, but when it happens, we have an obligation as a country to call it what it is. If not, we operate without the facts outside of reality. We aren't being honest to ourselves and to the world. This resolution gives us that reckoning and sets the record straight, a record that so many administrations over the years have sought to obscure. These administrations, Republican and Democrat, have dug their heads into the sand, despite the words of U.S. diplomats who were there at the time, who saw the genocide with their own eyes.

Let me just share a couple of examples. Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, from 1913 to 1916, wrote in his memoir that, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal this fact. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915." This was Henry Morgenthau Ambassador's quote.

On June 5, 1915, the United States Consul in Aleppo, Jesse Jackson, wrote, "There is a living stream of Armenians pouring into Aleppo from the surrounding towns and villages, the principal ones being Marash, Zeitoun, Hasanbeyli, Osmania, Baghtche, Adana, Dortyol, Hadjin.

"The Ottoman Government has been appealed to by various prominent people and even those in authority to put an end to these conditions, under the representations that it can only lead to the greatest blame and reproach, but all to no avail. It is without doubt a carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race."

On July 24, 1915, in a report to Ambassador Morgenthau, the U.S. Consul in Harput, Leslie Davis, stated, "Any doubt that may have been expressed in previous reports as to the Government's intention in sending away the Armenians have been removed. It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race. Everything was apparently planned months ago."

And, finally, on October 1, 1916, a telegram to the Secretary of State Robert Lansing, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires Hoffman Philip wrote, "The department is in receipt of ample details demonstrating the horrors of the anti-Armenian campaign. For many months past I felt that the most efficacious method for dealing with the situation from an international standpoint would be to flatly threaten to withdraw our Diplomatic Representative from a country where such barbarous methods are not only tolerated but actually carried out by order of the existing Government."

Finally, Abram Elkus, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1916 to 1917, telegraphed the Secretary of State at the time on October 17, 1916, stating "In order to avoid opprobrium of the civilized world, which the continuation of massacres [of the Armenians] would arouse, Turkish officials have now adopted and are executing the unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

American officials, those with the most credible and legitimate understanding of what took place, made these statements. They are part of the historical record, and they mark one of the prouder moments in the history of the State Department and our diplomacy.

Finally, there are 27 countries in the world that have already recognized the Armenian genocide. Eleven of them are NATO countries: Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia. None of them have ruptured their relationship with Turkey. None of them have ended their relationship with Turkey as it relates to recognizing the Armenian genocide as a historical fact.

Why is the greatest country on the face of the earth, the United States of America, incapable—incapable—of doing this when these 11 NATO countries haven't? So I want to thank the many individuals over the years, particularly the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly, and so many others, who have worked so hard alongside me to ensure the U.S. abides by its commitment to the truth and to a world where genocide truly never happens again.

I have had a good friend and colleague who has been engaged with me in this latest effort, and I want to yield to him at this time, Senator CRUZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I am proud to join with my friend and my colleague from New Jersey today in urging the Senate to take up and pass the resolution affirming U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out a forced deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, of whom 1.5 million were killed. It was an atrocious genocide. That it happened is a reality that no amount of political doublespeak can cover up.

In fact, the word "genocide," which literally means the killing of an entire people, was coined by Raphael Lemkin to describe the horrific nature of the Ottoman Empire's calculated extermination of the Armenians. That is the genesis of the word "genocide."

As America, we must never be silent in response to atrocities. Over 100 years ago, the world sat silently as the Armenian people suffered and were systematically murdered. Many people today are still unaware of what happened. With this resolution—a bipartisan resolution—we are saying it is a policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

Let me echo what my colleague from New Jersey just said. Doing so is not incompatible with continuing to deal with Turkey as an ally. Just last week, I sat down with President Erdogan and President Trump in the oval office. Turkey is a NATO ally and an important one, but friends and allies can speak the truth, and we are not honoring America and who we stand for if we are afraid to speak the truth and willing to participate in covering it up. We have a moral duty to acknowledge what happened to 1.5 million innocent souls. It is the right thing to do, and it is my hope that the Senate will do so in a bipartisan manner.

I yield back the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Therefore, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. I am reserving the right to object.

Mr. President, just yesterday, Secretary Pompeo joined the foreign ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, including Foreign Minister Cavusoglu from Turkey. Secretary Pompeo had quite a lot to discuss with him, as this administration continues its engagement with Turkey's leadership on the heels of President Trump's meeting with President Erdogan last week. In light of these diplomatic efforts, I respectfully object to this resolution at this time.

While the content of the legislation before us merits undivided consideration, its passage would undermine the administration's overcoming real challenges in our bilateral relationship with Turkey. I look forward to working with the administration and Senator CRUZ and Senator MENENDEZ in holding our NATO ally responsible for its commitment made when it joined the NATO community of like-minded nations founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am not new to this issue. I have been pursuing recognition of the Armenian genocide for the greater part of a decade, and there always seems to be some reason why, in fact, it is not a good moment. Well, it is like a rope-a-dope. It is like a rope-a-dope. There is always another reason. There is always another excuse.

The 11 NATO allies have done this, and they are still in NATO and still working with Turkey and still have diplomatic relationships with Turkey. It is amazing to me the greatest power on the face of this earth can't just speak truth of history. It amazes me. And so there never seems to be a good moment.

Now, I have been here in the Senate long enough to know that objections to unanimous consent work both ways, so I am going to continue to bring this issue to the floor. I think Armenian Americans, the world, and history should record who stands on the side of recognizing genocide for what it is and who is not, and so I am not going to relax. If necessary, I am sure there will be moments in which those will seek consent on issues, and if the only way is to get a vote on this through the actual process on the floor, then I will force that issue because history demands it. Our conscience should call for it, and a decade of waiting to make this happen is enough.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator MENENDEZ always speaking up for human rights, regardless who the President is, regardless of any colleagues running for President, whenever the President calls on them, and Senator MENENDEZ has always been a Senator here that stands up for his principles on international human rights.

BIPARTISAN AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. President, thank you to Senator MANCHIN and all of my colleagues for coming to the floor earlier today to remind this body that we need to act now on behalf of almost 90,000 miners who are living under the threat of massive cuts for the pensions they earned; 1,200 miners and their families could lose their healthcare by the end of the year because of the Westmoreland and Murray bankruptcies. That leaves us about a month.

The bankruptcy court could allow these corporations to "shed their liabilities," which is a fancy way of saying they could walk away from paying miners the benefits they have earned.

Two years ago, we worked to save thousands of miners' healthcare. We have to do it again. We can't leave these workers behind to lose their healthcare over the holidays just because of the date their companies filed for bankruptcy. We have to make sure they don't lose their retirement security on top of that.

All 86,000 UMW miners are facing crippling pension cuts. They aren't alone. This retirement security of hundreds of thousands of teamsters and ironworkers and carpenters and many other retirees and workers is also at risk. The crisis facing their pensions is real. It is immediate. It can have ripple effects across the country.

This week, the PBGC released a new report showing it could run out of money even sooner, and we should be concerned about that. If the multi-employer system collapses, if PBGC fails, we are looking at a potential recession. Small businesses that have been in the family for generations could face bankruptcy. Workers will lose jobs at businesses forced to close up shop. Retirees will face crippling cuts to their income.

Congress gave Wall Street a bailout a decade ago after they wrecked people's lives. These miner workers did what they were supposed to do. They gave up money at the bargaining table to put money aside for healthcare and pensions later. Is Congress going to abandon them? This is about our values. This is about whose side you are on. It is about the dignity of work. We should be committed to these miners, for these workers, these retirees. We should not give up. We are continuing to work for a bipartisan solution.

It comes down to the dignity of work. When people have dignity, when work has dignity, we honor the retirement security they have earned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think we are running a few minutes behind. We have had a real crush of business here in the last hour. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF DAN R. BROUILLETTE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, every Senator knows the House is now in the middle of an impeachment inquiry. Here in this Chamber, the Senate has been considering the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be Energy Secretary, replacing Rick Perry.

In my view, questions about Secretary Perry's conduct in Ukraine—and what Mr. Brouillette may know about that conduct—tie this nomination to the impeachment inquiry in an important way. I have come to believe there are several significant unanswered questions about Secretary Perry's role in changing the board of a state-owned energy company called Naftogaz.

What Secretary Perry, his campaign donors, and certain crooked associates of Rudy Giuliani stood to gain from those changes is something the Senate ought to be digging into. We have been hearing about Secretary Perry's role in Donald Trump's scheme with respect to withholding a meeting and military aid until Ukrainian President Zelensky agreed to interfere in the 2020 elections in the United States.

The investigations seem to be piling up. Every time a new piece of information comes to light, it raises yet more and more questions about schemes that sure look, based on the facts, to be corrupt. Somehow, Secretary Perry seems to be making his way out the door without facing much, if any, scrutiny. Now the Senate is trying to fast-track his replacement.

I will put it simply: Enough, enough. It is time for the Senate to get some answers instead of just saying everything is A-OK at the Energy Department.

I am going to take just a few minutes to explain what this is all about. Mr. PERRY is famously one of the "three amigos" who took control of U.S. ties with Ukraine under the direction of the President and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. Secretary Perry attended President Zelensky's inauguration in May. They held a private meeting. It has been reported that Secretary Perry pushed President Zelensky to fire members of the board of Naftogaz—a Ukrainian energy giant—and replace them with Secretary Perry's own political donors.

At a second meeting with Ukrainian government and energy sector officials, Secretary Perry reportedly said the entire board ought to be replaced. The Associated Press reported that one person who attended the meeting said that "he was floored by the American requests because the person had always viewed the U.S. government 'as having a higher ethical standard.'"

The changes Secretary Perry was seeking lined up with changes sought by two shady characters named Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, associates of Rudy Giuliani's. They also wanted different leadership at Naftogaz.

I am going to read now from an Associated Press report.

As Rudy Giuliani was pushing Ukrainian officials last spring to investigate one of Donald Trump's main political rivals, a group of individuals with ties to the president and his personal lawyer were also active in the former Soviet republic. Their aims were profit, not politics.

This circle of businessmen and Republican donors touted connections to Giuliani and Trump while trying to install new management at the top of Ukraine's massive state gas company. Their plan was to then steer lucrative contracts to companies controlled by Trump allies, according to two people with knowledge of their plans.

Federal prosecutors are now investigating Rudy Giuliani's role. A Naftogaz official is reportedly cooperating in the investigation, and some of Rick Perry's political donors did get a lucrative oil and gas deal in Ukraine after Perry began pressuring the Ukrainian President for changes.

Perry admits he was in contact with Giuliani about Ukraine. It was also revealed in impeachment testimony that Perry was seemingly made aware in July of the Trump scheme where it seemed like everybody was involved in Ukraine.

To get it straight, I think this is the bottom line: Secretary Perry has somehow managed to stay on the fringes of this whole scheme, but it sure looks to me like he was right at the heart of serious ethical compromises. President Trump has claimed he made the call to Ukraine's President that prompted the whistleblower's complaint at Perry's request. Everywhere you look in the Ukraine scandal, it looks like there is crooked behavior all over.

I have a hard time believing that Secretary Perry booked his own flight for these meetings, sauntered out the back door of the Energy Department, and freelanced his own shady Ukraine policy without anybody knowing about it.

That brings me back to the Brouillette nomination. Dan Brouillette is currently the Deputy Energy Secretary. He is the No. 2 person at the Department. He is the Deputy to the "amigo."

At his confirmation hearing, sitting on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which I at one time chaired, I thought it was important to ask Mr. Brouillette some basic questions about what I have outlined here. What I wanted to know wasn't real complicated: Whom did Secretary Perry meet with regarding Ukraine and Naftogaz? He was a powerful guy, and he wielded major influence over a nation that is dependent on aid from the United States as it resists aggression by Russia. Who else was in the loop with Secretary Perry?

Deputy Secretary Brouillette acknowledged in my questions only that

there were meetings but provided no further details about who took part in them. In followup written questions, again, he just wasn't forthcoming. He wouldn't provide any answers.

I am sending a letter to Deputy Secretary Brouillette to give him yet another chance to answer basic questions: To whom was Mr. Brouillette referring when he acknowledged Perry held meetings on seeking changes at Naftogaz; when and where did those meetings take place; to whom outside the Department did Secretary Perry speak regarding changes in Naftogaz and the substance of those communications; and then, whether Department staff were involved in meetings at which changes to Naftogaz leadership came up, who the staff were, and what materials were produced.

I will make it clear, I find it implausible the Secretary of Energy was unstaffed on all this. I would think, for an important meeting like this, Secretary Perry would have individuals from the Department of Energy who were involved in these discussions that Mr. Brouillette has now acknowledged took place, but we can't get any names. We can't get any answers at all.

I think it is seriously an error for the Senate to just rush to this nomination without getting answers to the questions I have outlined. Indictments are flying. Investigations reveal major wrongdoing. Every stone that gets overturned in this process reveals a lot more generally about a rotten scheme. It just seems to me that Secretary Perry is a significant figure in this scandal, and he is just trying to get out of dodge.

To me, this ought to be an opportunity for this body, the U.S. Senate, to stand up and demand accountability from the Trump administration and all of those in the administration who can provide information that, I think, provides a modest amount of information—a modest amount of information—about discussions that could very well be relevant to this whole Ukraine scheme.

Mr. Giuliani already had associates indicted. Just yesterday, there were differences of opinion in the testimony about what Mr. PERRY's involvement was all about. Practically every day there are unanswered questions about this matter. Because I believe the Senate deserves to have answers to the questions I have raised, because I think this is just accountability 101 to have this information, I will be voting no today on cloture. My understanding is that no matter how the Senate is recorded today, there will be some opportunity over the holiday break for Senators, staff, and those who are doing investigative work on this to get more details. I certainly think that without the question I have been asking and the modest amount of information they would disclose—information, frankly, I think Secretary Perry, the Energy Department, and the Trump administration could produce quite

quickly if they didn't want to spend the time stonewalling—I think given that, it is not responsible to advance this nomination through an affirmative cloture vote today, so I will be voting no. My hope is that over the next week or so, we can start to get some answers to these basic questions.

I will tell you, I have just gone through five townhall meetings at home in rural and urban areas. Everybody I represent at home thinks there ought to be more accountability in Washington, DC, rather than less.

Without answers to the questions I have outlined today, there is no question that with respect to accountability, the Senate, by voting cloture today, would be settling for less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that at any moment now, we will move to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be Secretary of Energy. As folks know, he is currently serving as our Deputy Secretary of Energy. In my view, he has excelled in that role since being confirmed by this body in a strong bipartisan vote back in August of 2017. He has run the Department on a daily basis. He has been helping Secretary Perry set an agenda that has been focused on energy security and technological innovation. He has been a good partner of the Energy Committee—honest, open, and responsive. I have certainly appreciated all of his leadership.

We commend him to this body. He did very well in his nomination hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I believe he will do very well in his new role. I encourage all Members to work with us to confirm him as soon as possible today.

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 bill 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 Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 366 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hassan	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Heinrich	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Carper	Johnson	Shaheen
Casey	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kaine	Sinema
Cooms	Kennedy	Smith
Cornyn	King	Stabenow
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Duckworth	Murkowski	Udall
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Leahy	Schatz
Blumenthal	Markey	Schumer
Brown	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkeley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

NASA PLUM BROOK STATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk about a couple of topics.

First, I thank my colleagues on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for very recently approving legislation to rename the NASA Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, OH, after Ohio's own and a true American hero—the late Neil Armstrong. I now, of course, urge that this legislation be taken up by the full Senate and that we get it passed. There is an identical bill in the House. We hope to join both bills so that it may be sent to the President for his signature very soon.

The NASA Plum Brook Station is a state-of-the-art testing facility. It is near Sandusky, OH, and is a terrific facility that is doing a lot of the testing right now for both NASA and some private sector companies. It is part of the NASA Glenn complex that is headquartered in Cleveland, OH.

It is an impressive operation for a lot of reasons, but the one that is most exciting right now is their work on the Artemis Project. This is, of course, NASA's plan to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2024, including having the first woman go to the Moon. This mission will also lay the groundwork for future expeditions to the next great leap in spaceflight—that, of course, being a manned mission to Mars. It is exciting stuff.

At Plum Brook, they are already testing critical components of the rocket engines that are scheduled to carry Artemis astronauts into space starting next year. Very soon, they are going to be testing the spacecraft itself. We hope it will arrive at Plum Brook within the next few weeks where it will undergo about 4 months of testing.

This past summer, I and my colleague, Ohio Senator SHERRON BROWN, introduced this legislation to rename the facility after Neil Armstrong, and we did so on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, from which, of course, Neil Armstrong became world famous for being the first person to walk on the surface of the Moon.

Ultimately, Neil Armstrong was a test pilot. We think of him as an astronaut. Some know that he was also a fighter pilot and that he was a veteran of the Korean conflict. He was just an amazing individual—humble, smart. He was a very patriotic individual. How appropriate and perfect that as a test pilot, which he was during his whole post-fighter pilot career until his time as an astronaut, Plum Brook be named after him.

By the way, Neil's family agrees with that, as does NASA, and as do others we have talked to. So we are hoping that this will be a fitting way to honor a man who, for all of his accomplishments, saw himself, first and foremost, as a patriot who pushed the boundaries of flight. Therefore, the test facility is very dear to them.

I talked to him about this test facility. After one of my visits there, I went to see him at his home and told him about the progress they were making. At that time, they were trying to revamp some of the facilities there. He was really excited about it. He was a very modest man and did not want things named after him. He viewed his service to his country as the reward. That is all he ever wanted in life. That makes it all the more fitting that we, in fact, do name this after him. It is a great model for young people and, certainly, for those who are interested in avionics and spacecraft and in being astronauts. His example is one we should all look up to.

When this comes to the Senate floor for a vote, I hope all of my colleagues will support it, and I hope that it will happen very soon.

THOUSAND TALENTS PLAN

Mr. President, there was a very troubling report that was issued this week by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. This is a tough subject. In this report, it details for the very first time how taxpayers' dollars have been used, really, over the past 20 years to fund scientific research that has then been misappropriated by one of our global competitors—China—to fuel its own economy and its own military growth.

What do I mean by that? What happened?

Every year, Federal grant-making agencies, like the National Institutes of Health—the NIH—or the Department of Energy's National Labs or the National Science Foundation, give out taxpayers' dollars for research—actually, about \$150 billion a year.

This is a good thing for us as a country. It leads to new breakthroughs in science and technology, healthcare, weapons systems, and so on. Through research grants, this money goes primarily to universities and to other research institutions across the United States. This investment has been very helpful in making the United States the world leader in scientific innovation. Again, it has resulted in some amazing breakthroughs.

Our U.S. research is built on some principles here in this country. One is transparency. Another is collaboration. Others are integrity, peer review, and a merit-based system. In fact, the open and collaborative nature of the research that is done here in the United States is one of the reasons we attract some of the best and brightest scientists and researchers from all around the world. That is a good thing. Yet, without proper protections, this research is vulnerable to theft by other countries, and that is exactly what has happened.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, along with Ranking Member TOM CARPER, conducted an 8-month investigation into how American taxpayer-funded research has been taken by China—effectively stolen—to assist its own economy and its own military. China has been very open about its goals to surpass the United States as the world leader in science and technology by the middle of this century.

An important part of this effort is what China calls its talent recruitment programs. Through talent recruitment programs, China has strategically and systematically acquired knowledge and intellectual property from researchers and scientists in the United States in both the public and private sectors.

In the course of our investigation, the FBI shared with us that China plans to spend more than \$2 trillion between 2008 and 2020 toward improving its human capital, which includes re-

cruiting and developing researchers and scientists.

The Thousand Talents Plan, which was the focus of our investigation, is now in its 11th year of operation, and it is probably China's most prominent talent recruitment program. However, there are about 200 or more other talent recruitment programs as well.

Launched in 2008, China designed the Thousand Talents Plan to recruit 2,000 high-quality, overseas experts and to get their knowledge and their expertise and their research. By 2017, China had exceeded that initial goal by recruiting more than 7,000 of what they call "high-end professionals," including many from American research institutions.

Some of the U.S.-based researchers, of course, also receive taxpayer-funded Federal grant money we talked about earlier to do the same research right here in the United States. In exchange for spending part of every year working in Chinese institutions, the Thousand Talents Plan recruits are rewarded with generous salaries and research budgets, sometimes even exceeding their pay at the American research institutions where, in practice, they are working. These researchers also often get access to what is called a shadow lab in science. In other words, they provide them not just with funding, but they also say: We will provide you lab space in China.

At our hearing yesterday, the Department of Energy witness testified that China offered some of his researchers hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars to join a talent recruitment program.

For a researcher here, the Thousand Talents Plan might seem like a good opportunity, but it certainly is not a good opportunity for the United States, especially because embedded in the language of some of these contracts these researchers sign are very troubling provisions that prevent these recruits from disclosing their participation in the Thousand Talents Plan even though disclosing foreign payments is required by U.S. regulations. Not only is this dishonest, but it is also a clear violation of the American regulations that require researchers who apply for these grants we are talking about—this \$150 billion of taxpayer money—to disclose any funding they are receiving from a foreign source. In effect, what is happening with the Thousand Talents Plan is that it is incentivizing these program members to lie on grant applications to U.S. grant-funding agencies to avoid disclosing their funding from Chinese institutions.

What is worse, in many of these contracts, researchers are often required to transfer to China the technological breakthroughs—the research—that are being developed in American labs with American grant money. There are a lot of examples we found in our 8-month study. Let me talk about a couple quickly.

In one, we learned that a Thousand Talents Plan recruit at the Depart-

ment of Energy's National Labs used the intellectual property created during his work in a National Lab to file for a U.S. patent under the name of a Chinese company, effectively stealing the federally funded research and claiming it for China.

Another Thousand Talents Plan member illegally downloaded more than 30,000 files from a National Lab—this is connected with Department of Energy funding—without authorization right before returning to China.

Once China has it, some of this research could be used to threaten the national security of the United States. As an example, the State Department witness testified at our hearing yesterday that "the Chinese Communist Party has declared the Chinese university system to be on the front line of military-civilian fusion efforts for technological acquisition for weapons research and the expansion of key scientific and engineering talent to drive Chinese innovation." That is pretty obvious. That is what all of our witnesses, in essence, said.

This is not a new problem. We found out through our investigation that the Federal Government should have known about this issue for almost two decades but has yet to do anything substantial to stop it. It is unacceptable that we have allowed this to go on as long as we have.

These talent programs are a win-win for China and a lose-lose for the United States. First, the Chinese Government and their research entities are getting research that is paid for by us. Second, it is not used by us. That research is used in China to improve their own economic and military status.

So why is it taking so long for us to do anything about this problem? I think there are a couple of reasons.

First, a lot of the U.S. research community didn't fully understand the Thousand Talents Plan and the threat it poses. Even though this one program is more than a decade old at this point, it wasn't until last year that the FBI began organizing a unified Federal response to the threat it has been posing to our universities and research institutions. We have been slow to focus on this issue, and therefore it has continued.

I appreciated the FBI's candor at the hearing yesterday, by the way, when the FBI Assistant Director testified that he wished the FBI had "taken more rapid and comprehensive action in the past." I do too.

Second, I think one reason this hasn't been stopped is that the coordination between the grant-making agencies is almost as bad as the coordination with the Federal law enforcement folks, meaning that they aren't talking to each other about problems they have had, about particular instances regarding some of the research that has been taken.

As I said, we are talking about more than \$150 billion of taxpayer money every year that goes to these agencies,

but once these funds are in the agencies' hands, we found no evidence of a unified and coordinated tracking and monitoring process to ensure that the money did not go toward the Thousand Talents Plan participants or other programs. The National Science Foundation, for instance, doesn't seem to have anyone who handles grant oversight in this regard. These research entities need to share information on these issues.

But other organizations are at fault too. We found that the State Department is on the frontlines due to its responsibilities to vet visa applications for visiting students and scholars, but it very rarely denies visas under that process.

Quite frankly, the research community here in the United States bears some responsibility too. There has been a collective failure by our universities and our research institutions to vet researchers for these conflicts of interest with other countries. Again, this is made worse by the fact that many of these researchers are receiving taxpayer funds to conduct their research here.

It is going to take a comprehensive strategy across the Federal Government to better protect our research against this threat. Our report makes a number of recommendations that, combined, will go a long way toward strengthening the security of our research networks, while preserving the shared culture of transparency and fairness.

Of course we want to continue to be the top place in the world for research, and that means that we have to be able to share and have transparency and openness, but it also means that we need to do a much better job of protecting this information from being misused.

We, of course, need to do better at getting the word out to universities, research institutions, and the general public about this threat being posed by the Thousand Talents Plan and other foreign talent recruitment plans. This means better coordination between law enforcement, the intelligence community, and grant-making agencies so that the government is on the same page on this threat.

We also need to change the research culture to preserve its openness and innovative spirit while making sure foreign researchers are properly vetted by the sponsoring organizations.

NIH, NSF, and other grant-making institutions need to standardize how they find conflicts of interest in grant applications. They don't do that now.

Members of the research community need to develop best practices for American researchers to follow so that they can determine whether receiving funds from a foreign country would compromise our principles of research integrity and threaten our national security.

Finally, we need to help the State Department do a better job in its visa

vetting process for foreign researchers. We need to do a better job of determining potential conflicts of interest before individuals who may not have the best interests of the United States at heart start working at our research institutions and using our taxpayer dollars.

In the coming months, I will introduce bipartisan legislation that will help address some of these challenges. I look forward to working with Senator CARPER, the ranking member on the subcommittee, and other colleagues to get those initiatives to the President's desk.

Let me conclude by saying that we don't want to exclude China from contributing to scientific innovation—not at all. Advancements in the fields of robotics, medicine, energy, weapons systems, and more are things that are very important, and many of these can benefit the entire globe. But we want to have fair and transparent processes in place as we conduct this research, and our taxpayers don't want to be the ones to pick up the tab as China misappropriates our research to build up its own economy and a military designed to rival ours.

My hope is that this report is the start of a productive dialogue with China and here in Congress on how we can better build a more secure research system that continues to reward those who come to our shores to discover new breakthroughs in science, while keeping China and other nation state competitors from taking that research for their own purposes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, before I start my remarks, I want to underscore how valuable the Department of Defense fellows program is to our individual offices. I can tell you firsthand that Captain Ng's presence in my office has given me capacity to deal with issues concerning appointments that I have or issues that are pending in Congress of a military nature.

For those of us who have never served in the military service, having someone like Captain Ng in our office is incredibly important. I really want to underscore that and thank all of our Defense fellows for the services they are performing for our country.

Mr. President, on May 22 of this year, I stood before this body and expressed my deep concerns about the media reports that President Trump was considering granting pardons to certain U.S. military personnel who had been convicted of committing war crimes in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now 6 months later, President Trump has followed through with setting a very dangerous precedent, pardoning three military personnel of war crimes, two who were found guilty under the U.S. military's Uniform Code of Military Justice and one whose trial never concluded.

President Trump's pardons significantly disrupt the foundations of our own institutions, particularly the U.S. military.

First, President Trump's pardons cause confusion for our military servicemembers on what actions are acceptable on the battlefield—an already difficult task given the complexity of war. Second, he undermines the military justice system. Finally, these pardons degrade America's global standing and influence.

Stephen Preston, a former General Counsel at the Department of Defense, wrote the following in the Department of Defense Law of War Manual in June of 2015:

The law of war is part of who we are. . . . [T]he laws of war have shaped the U.S. Armed Forces as much as they have shaped any other armed force in the world. The law of war is part of our military heritage, and obeying it is the right thing to do. . . . [T]he self-control needed to refrain from violations of the law of war under stresses of combat is the same good order and discipline necessary to operate cohesively and victoriously in battle.

The Law of War Manual goes on to outline the five interdependent principles that serve as the foundation of the law of war: One, military necessity; two, humanity; three, proportionality; four, distinction; and five, honor.

These principles are pillars of American values and the guideposts we expect America's sons and daughters to operate within so they remain trusted and respected by all citizens of the world. President Trump's ill-advised pardons have placed those pillars on shaky ground. He has blurred the lines of morality for our troops and has disregarded the constitutional values the Founding Fathers set forth.

By virtue of their oath and training, members of the U.S. military are accountable for their individual and collective actions through the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Department of Defense policy states:

Each member of the armed services has a duty to: (1) comply with the laws of war in good faith; and (2) refuse to comply with clearly illegal orders to commit violations of the law of war.

Two of these military personnel President Trump pardoned were found guilty of violating the law of war through the prescribed Department of Defense investigative and judicial processes. They violated international and domestic law, and they failed to uphold their constitutional oath. President Trump's pardons of war crimes erode the trust, confidence, and the legal and moral authority of the military justice system. He never gave the military justice system a chance to work and determine all the facts surrounding the third individual whom he pardoned.

Our own Commander in Chief has now compromised and degraded the integrity of the U.S. military judicial system—a system America relies on to maintain good order and discipline within the ranks of our millions of uniformed servicemembers.

Perhaps most important and most damaging, President Trump's actions have eroded America's moral standing and global influence.

That erosion emboldens our adversaries to cite our actions in committing and justifying their own war crimes. Have we become a country that now justifies and embraces the type of acts that occurred at My Lai during Vietnam or Abu Ghraib in Iraq? Will we continue to allow horrific acts committed by rogue actors who strategically diminish America's global standing?

Moving forward, how will other nations trust the United States to implement and enforce the law of war, as required by our own domestic laws, policy, regulations, and orders, and by the multiple treaty obligations with other countries?

Our Nation cannot tolerate crimes committed by rogue actors who violate their oaths and who turn their backs on American laws and values. If our government does not hold those individuals accountable for their actions, the United States will never recover from the strategic losses they incur. Under no circumstance is adopting the behavior of our worst adversaries ever justified, ever.

Just as we seek to hold foreign actors accountable for war crimes, we also have an obligation to hold ourselves accountable. We cannot willfully allow our institutions or the individuals who serve them to deviate from the laws and standards of conduct that underpin our great Nation, but that is precisely what President Trump has done. Our former colleague, Senator John McCain, suffered many years of torture at the hands of the North Vietnamese captors. Nonetheless, he stood in this Chamber to decry our use of the same tactics. He said: "This question isn't about our enemies. It is about us. It is about who we were, who we are, and who we aspire to be. It is about how we represent ourselves to the world. Our enemies act without conscience. We must not."

Senator McCain was correct. Great power competition with our adversaries is not just about who wins on a battlefield; ultimately, it is about preserving international recognized norms and values that uphold the rule of law, individual freedoms, and human dignity. If the U.S. fails to be the global champion of current international norms and democratic values, then our adversaries will replace those values with their own ideology predicated on intimidation, fear, and violent oppression.

The United States must not willfully commit or condone war crimes. We must bring those who commit them to justice, regardless of citizenship, affiliation, or background. Even in the fog of war—especially in the fog of war—we must so act. We must always endeavor to act with moral clarity and preserve the international norms and values that took so long and have cost so many American lives to establish.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Texas.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the last few months, our friend and colleague, the minority leader, has railed about the lack of legislative progress here in the Senate. He believes the Senate should spend time taking up ultrapartisan bills that have passed the House of Representatives, but the truth is, we respectfully decline to take up those bills, which, in some instances, would infringe Americans' Constitutional rights, send taxpayer dollars to political candidates, and move us closer and closer to socialized medicine.

Now, our colleague likes to call these dead-on-arrival partisan bills part of the legislative graveyard, but our colleague from New York has opened up a graveyard of his own, only his isn't full of partisan legislation that could never pass the Senate, let alone become the law. No. Our friend—the Democratic leader's legislative graveyard exclusively caters to bipartisan bills.

Now, it is full of commonsense and critically important legislation that would actually make the lives of the American people better if only our friend from New York would stand down. Today, we had a chance to kick the can down the road once more when it comes to Federal funding because our colleagues across the aisle have put government funding bills 6 feet under.

Over the summer, as you will recall, we came to a bipartisan agreement on spending caps, a bicameral agreement to guide the appropriations process. We had a deal. It provided a roadmap for negotiations this fall, and we all promised to work hard and in good faith and stay away from poison pill policy riders. But, unfortunately, that promise was not kept, and our colleagues can't seem to put politics aside long enough to even fund the government.

And why? Because of a disagreement over .3 percent of Federal spending—0.3 percent. They have twice blocked vital funding for our military. They have blocked funding for mental health programs, for border security, for grant programs for schools—all over these petty disputes. So here we are, almost 2 months into the fiscal year, and we haven't sent a single appropriations bill to the President's desk, not one.

Well, with the government set to shut down at midnight tonight, at least we passed a bill to keep the trains running for 1 more month. Maybe this was the least bad choice we had in light of these broken promises. The stopgap funding bill carries through December 20 and provides another opportunity for our colleagues across the aisle to make good on their August commitments to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year, using the normal appropriations process.

I hope that good faith negotiations can resume and we can fund the re-

mainder of the fiscal year by Christmas because the last stocking stuffer we want to give the American people is another government shutdown. And it is particularly important for us to fund our military in an increasingly dangerous world where weakness is indeed a provocation for the bullies and authoritarians who want to take advantage of the lack of American leadership, in this case because Congress simply refuses to do its job to fund the military.

Well, I would be wrong to say it is all bad news. I am an optimist by nature. It reminds me of the story of the little boy who comes down Christmas morning and finds a pile of manure under the Christmas tree. He asked, "Where is the pony?" I am an optimist by nature. Yesterday, we did manage to make some small progress when we unanimously passed a bipartisan bill that I introduced with Mr. MERKLEY, the Senator from Oregon, to ban the sale of riot control material to the Hong Kong police force.

As freedom-seeking protesters on the other side of the globe risked life and limb for the freedoms we too often take for granted, we cannot condone police brutality. Admittedly, this is a small but important step to show we stand with the people of Hong Kong, but I find this ironic. The minority leader is fine with passing incremental bills to support the people of Hong Kong, but when it comes to passing incremental bills to support the American people, he objects.

I think the best example is the legislation that I have introduced to bring down prescription drug prices. Last week, I came to the Senate floor with my friend, colleague, and cosponsor, Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, to ask that our bill to reduce drug prices be passed. No one else had an objection other than the Democratic leader.

The premise of the bill was pretty simple: prevent drugmakers from gaming the patent system to monopolize the market. Our bill strikes a delicate balance of protecting innovation while encouraging competition, and it would be a win for every American who has felt the pain or sticker shock at the pharmacy counter. This bill, amazingly, passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously. I served on the Judiciary Committee my entire time on the Senate, and it is famous for its contentiousness, and we passed it unanimously. Every Republican and every Democrat voted for it. So you can imagine my optimism, my hope, that the bill would sail through the Senate, meet up with welcoming arms in the House, and then get to the President for his signature, but I guess I should have known better.

Our Democratic colleagues have continued to throw up roadblocks for things as critical as funding the military, so why would they let this bill that would bring down prescription costs for consumers, why would they

let it pass? So right on cue, the Democratic leader came to the floor and he objected. He was the only person out of 100 Senators to object. He did not object because of the substance.

As a matter of fact, he called it a well-intentioned and good bill, but he objected. He certainly did not object because it was a partisan bill. The bill has six Democratic cosponsors, including the minority whip, the Senator from Illinois, and the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator MURRAY from Washington State.

So the only reason I can think of that he would object is because he doesn't want to see anyone whose name happened to be on the ballot in 2020 score a win. Well, how unworthy of the U.S. Senate is that sort of thinking? We should not be thinking in terms of who is going to win or lose politically if we pass good legislation. We ought to be doing the Nation's work and working together in a bipartisan basis, not trying to bring the 2020 election here to the Senate floor.

But this bill isn't the only one that is subject to these kinds of politics, unfortunately. Critical legislation to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault have also gotten caught up in this way of thinking. After months of bipartisan negotiations to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, our Democratic colleagues simply walked away from the negotiating table. Rather than reaching a compromise, building consensus on a bill that could pass both Chambers and become law, once again, our Democratic colleagues chose the partisan path and walked away from the table. They have introduced a near replica of the partisan House-passed bill for VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, which they know doesn't stand a chance of passing here in the Senate because it is not a consensus product.

That is not news to our friends on the other side of the aisle. They understand that this is more about the issue than it is solving the problem, the political issue. I think they turned their back on bipartisan talks, not because they had a better solution, which is what we ought to be about, but because our friend and Democratic leader doesn't want to give any Republican colleagues who are leading the negotiations, like the Senator from Iowa, Ms. ERNST, allow her to get a win.

This is really, again, unworthy of the Senate to think in those petty sorts of terms. I think we should concentrate on who would win if we passed the Violence Against Women Act, which would be the many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We ought to be thinking about them and whether they would win if we passed bipartisan legislation.

Now, I believe the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, wants to come back to the negotiating table. She told me that herself yesterday, but I also believe the Democratic leader probably

isn't going to let that happen. Like me, Senator ERNST is on the ballot next year.

Again, the minority leader has demonstrated his focus on politics rather than substance and doing what actually will help the American people: no bills to lower drug prices, no bills to support victims of domestic violence, nada. He can't afford to let any Republican bills pass because it might just hurt his chances of becoming the majority leader after the 2020 election.

I think it is a shame that the partisanship in the House has now infected the Senate and prevented us from passing bills that would make the American people's lives better. I hope our friends on the other side of the aisle have a great Thanksgiving break, and I hope that he will use that time to reconsider why it is they are here in the first place, why we are all here.

We are all here to make the Senate work for the benefit of the American people and not to engage in these unworthy petty political games leading up to the 2020 election.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, before election year politics completely halt the work of the Senate, here we are, 1 year before the election, one item I am really hoping we can deliver for the American people in addition to the ones I mentioned is the USMCA, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

This trade agreement, as we know, will replace NAFTA, or the North American Free Trade Agreement, and help drive our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada into the 21st century. When you consider the number of American jobs that depend on trade with Mexico and Canada, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce cites a figure of 13 million jobs—13 million jobs that depend on that trade with Mexico and Canada.

When you consider actions being taken by China to counter our interests all around the world, our reliance on North American partners is becoming increasingly important. The USMCA is not only an opportunity to strengthen North America's position on the global stage, but it is important, as I suggested, to our economy right here in the United States.

Earlier this year, the International Trade Commission provided some insight into what we can expect to see if this trade agreement is ratified, as it should be. The USMCA is expected to have a positive impact on every sector of the U.S. economy. Within 6 years, we are looking at 176,000 new American jobs and an increase in American gross domestic product of more than \$68 billion. That is bigger than the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

We can also look forward to more than a \$33 billion increase in exports and more than \$31 billion in imports. We know that many of those exports

and imports travel across the border in Texas because we share 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, and we have many ports of entry in our State.

In 2018 alone, Texas exported nearly \$110 billion in goods to Mexico and imported more than \$107 billion from Mexico. With the increased trade and travel we expect to see once the USMCA is ratified, we need to make sure that our ports of entry, through which these goods flow, are prepared. We have been working with the administration on this, and I have requested funding to prioritize Texas's ports and make sure they are safe and efficient.

I am also hoping the USMCA will include provisions from a bill I introduced earlier with another border State Senator, our friend Senator FEINSTEIN from California. This would improve the North American Development Bank, sometimes called the NAD Bank, which invests in our border communities and particularly in the infrastructure.

For every one NAD Bank dollar that has been invested in a project, that successfully leveraged \$20 in total infrastructure investment using public and private sector dollars.

Throughout NAD Bank's 25-year history, they have taken on projects that have improved air and water quality, updated infrastructure, and increased cross-border trade. NAD Bank brings Mexico and the United States together to finance these projects to improve trade and travel and quality of life on both sides of the border.

This legislation that Senator FEINSTEIN and I have introduced would authorize the Treasury Department to increase its capital and provide additional authority to fund critical projects. I have been working with my friend and Democratic colleague from Laredo, TX, Congressman CUELLAR, to make sure that these provisions are included in the final text of the USMCA. My hope is we will be able to take those provisions up as well as the entire agreement and ratify it soon, but it depends on Speaker PELOSI. Everybody is waiting for her to show the green light and for the House to act. I am concerned that as we get closer and closer into an election season, it is going to be harder and harder for the House to even pass this bipartisan trade deal.

I read today that she is not predicting they will even be able to get it done before the end of the year. I note that she made that comment roughly on the same day the House adjourned for 10 days. The House does not appear to be in any hurry, to be sure. In fact, they have dragged their feet for many months on something that is vitally important to our economy and job creation right here in the U.S.A.

Texans enjoy a strong trading relationship with our southern neighbor, and I am confident the USMCA will continue to propel that relationship forward as well as continue to grow our economy and create jobs and more opportunity for the American people.

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. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, right now, as we are gathered here on the Senate floor, the Senate and House conferees are in the process of trying to negotiate a final agreement on the NDAA. That is the National Defense Authorization Act. One of the key issues in the final discussions over the NDAA involves a provision designed to protect the integrity of American elections against outside interference from Russia or any other adversary. It is a provision based on bipartisan legislation that Senator RUBIO and I introduced over a year ago to deter Russian interference in a future American election. The legislation is called the DETER Act, the idea being: Let's deter Russia from attacking our democracy.

I believe it would be grossly negligent for the conferees to the National Defense Authorization Act to bring back to the House and the Senate a measure that does not include a provision to defend our democracy from Russian interference. The entire Senate must share that sentiment because we unanimously voted on a resolution just a short time ago to include such a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have in my hand a copy of that resolution. It was S. Res. 330. It instructs the managers on the part of the Senate on bill S. 1790—that is the National Defense Authorization Bill—to require certain measures to address Federal election interference by foreign governments.

It goes on to instruct the Senate conferees to require the appropriate official of the executive branch, after each Federal election, to promptly submit to Congress a determination as to whether the Government of the Russian Federation, or any other foreign government, has interfered in such election and a detailed assessment of any such interference that identifies, to the maximum extent practicable, the individuals responsible for the interference and to promptly impose sanctions on any foreign government that has been determined to have interfered in a Federal election, including specified individuals and entities within the territory of the government.

That is what the U.S. Senate unanimously voted on to instruct our conferees to the National Defense Authorization Act negotiations. What I just read is the guts of the idea in the bipartisan DETER Act that Senator RUBIO and I have introduced.

Here is what we know. We know that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

How do we know that? It was the unanimous verdict of the entire U.S. intelligence community, including the leaders of intelligence agencies appointed by this President. It was also the bipartisan verdict of the Senate Intelligence Committee—a committee that painstakingly documented the fact that election systems in all 50 States were targeted by Russia in 2016—to different degrees but in all 50 States. In fact, that Senate Intelligence Committee report was the first public—the first public—acknowledgement of how extensive the Russian efforts were to interfere in the 2016 elections.

We know the Russians did this in 2016. We know that Vladimir Putin sees interfering in our elections as a way to divide us against one another. We know that Vladimir Putin fears democratic forms of government and wants to undermine public confidence in those democracies.

How do you undermine public confidence in those democracies? By attacking the election process so that people doubt the validity of the outcome of an election. When that happens, if the public loses faith in the outcome of our elections, then we have really undermined the legitimacy and confidence in our democratic system. That was 2016.

The measure I am talking about doesn't relate to 2016. It relates to the future. Here is what our intelligence community just informed the country about within the last few weeks. I am holding in my hand a statement that was released on November 5, just a few weeks ago. It is from Attorney General William Barr, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan, Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire, FBI Director Chris Wray, U.S. Cyber Command Commander and NSA Director GEN Paul Nakasone, CISA Director Christopher Krebs. Here is what they said 2 weeks ago.

Our adversaries want to undermine our democratic institutions, influence public sentiment and affect government policies. Russia, China, Iran, and other foreign malicious actors all will seek to interfere in the voting process or influence voter perceptions. This document is not about the past; this document is about the future, about our future elections, including the 2020 election, which is now less than a year away.

We know in 2016 the Russians attacked our electoral process. We now have all of the leaders of Federal Government intelligence agencies and law enforcement telling us they predict Russia will do it again in 2020.

We have a Russian missile headed for our democracy, and the question for all of us is, What are we going to do about it? What are we going to do to protect our democracy and the legitimacy of our electoral system?

First of all, we should harden our election system. We should make it more difficult for Russia to break into our voter registration files. Certainly, we should make it more difficult for

them to break into voting machines. We should also make sure we build more defenses to prevent the Government of Russia from using social media to mislead and confuse voters. We should do all those things to better defend our election system, but I am of the view—and a lot of folks who have followed Russia and Vladimir Putin for a long time—that the best defense is a good offense. We can harden our systems here, but that doesn't stop Russia and Vladimir Putin from trying to break into our election systems. It doesn't prevent Russia and Putin from trying to use our social media to influence our voters. The only way to prevent them from trying is to let them know in advance that there is a big price to pay if they get caught.

Right now it is cost-free for Russia to interfere in our elections. In fact, it is a net benefit because Putin divides us. Putin leads voters and citizens to question the legitimacy of our democracy. He is winning in this current calculus. We need to change his calculus. We need to make it clear that the cost of interfering in our elections far outweighs these benefits that he is gaining.

That is what the DETER Act is all about. What the DETER Act does is set up a process whereby, if we catch Russia interfering in our future elections, including the 2020 elections, there will be automatic, swift, and very stiff economic penalties—not penalties on a couple of oligarchs but penalties that will hurt his economy, penalties on his banking sector, and penalties on part of his energy sector. If we adopt this provision, then we are making it very clear in advance to Vladimir Putin that if he interferes, and we catch him, there is a very stiff price to pay.

The whole purpose of this act is not to impose sanctions; it is to avoid sanctions by making it clear upfront what the costs will be if Putin interferes in our elections. The whole point is to use the threat of automatic, swift, and tough sanctions to discourage and deter the Russians from interfering in the first place.

I haven't heard anybody provide one substantive argument for why we should not do this to protect our democracy. I can think of no more important place to include this provision than the national defense authorization bill because if the national defense authorization bill is not about defending our democracy, I am not sure what it is about.

So the question is, Why are we still debating this in the conference committee for the national defense authorization bill? I can't figure out who is opposing it other than the fact that somebody is. I was told it was the Republican Senate leader and the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee who are opposing this provision. If that is the case, they really need to come to the Senate floor and explain this because the Senate unanimously instructed Senate conferees to adopt just

such a provision—unanimously. That includes the Senate majority leader and the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. They didn't object. Yet somehow now we are in the middle of a conference committee on defending our country, which I thought meant also defending our democracy, and we have these folks who don't want their fingerprints on it who are somehow trying to defeat this measure.

Here is what I have to say. If this provision is not included in the NDAA, it would be grossly negligent because we know from our own intelligence community 2 weeks ago that the Russians are coming to attack our elections again, and we are going to pass a defense authorization bill where we sit on our hands and do nothing about it? That would be outrageous.

This measure needs to be in the NDAA bill. I will tell you, if it is not, I am going to be here on this floor regularly asking for unanimous consent to bring this bill up for a vote. I am going to have the majority leader have to come down here regularly, or whomever he wants to designate, to object to a unanimous consent agreement to a provision to defend our elections.

I hope it is included in the Defense authorization bill. That is the place it should be. If it is not, I will be down here every day, and the clock will be ticking down day by day for the 2020 election, our Intelligence Committee will continue to warn us about Russian interference, and I am going to want to hear in public—in public—why some of our colleagues don't want to take action to defend the integrity of our democracy; why they want to allow Putin to have his way cost-free. That is a question I will be asking every day. I hope I don't have to ask it every day. I hope we do what the Senate already instructed our conferees to do, which is to include it in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO ROSIE HABEICH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. I know the pages know this, and many people watching know this, but it is that time of the day in the Senate when I come down on the Senate floor and talk about somebody who makes my State a very unique and special place—and it is an opportunity for me to talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska right now, particularly before the holidays—somebody we refer to in Alaska and here in the Senate as the Alaskan of the Week.

Before I get into this very special Alaskan, I will give you a little weather update. A lot of people like to understand what is going on. Winter has come. It is coming to Alaska. Snow has arrived throughout much of the State. In Southcentral Alaska it has come. Anchorage is covered in snow. A lot of people are getting ready to undertake winter. Sports and activities on Monday in Utqiagvik, the northernmost

point in North America—it used to be called Point Barrow—the Sun rose and set for the last time until January 23. So it is going to be dark up there, but they are used to that. They are great people. The community has now officially settled in for a bit of a dark Arctic winter, but they have been doing that for a millennium.

It is a winter wonderland right now throughout Alaska. So I always encourage people watching, watching on TV, to come on up. Summer, winter, fall, spring, come on up and visit. You will love it. It will be the trip of a lifetime.

As I mentioned before, I think I come from the most beautiful State in the country, but it is also a place made up of the most important, caring, wonderful, generous, and supportive people anywhere. Some of these people have had ancestors living in Alaska for thousands and thousands of years. Others arrived more recently but immediately found a home in a community that they were supportive of and was supportive of them.

Let me introduce you to Rosemary Habeich. Her friends call her Rosie. She is an extraordinary Alaskan who has done extraordinary things for our people. She is our Alaskan of the Week.

What has she done? What is extraordinary about Rosie?

Let me just mention one off the top, which is pretty remarkable—fostering over 50 Alaskan children with her husband, Eben Hobson, Jr. I should add here that Eben is the son of the first mayor of Alaska's North Slope Borough and someone who has also fought for the rights of Alaska Natives throughout his life. He deserves mention, as well as his wife, as a legendary Alaskan.

Not only did Rosie and Eben foster all these children, they adopted three, and raised five of their own children. That is a crowded household but a kind, loving, supportive and warm household—a place of love.

I can say here that the recommendation for Rosie to be our Alaskan of the Week comes from our First Alaskans Institute fellow, Elizabeth Ahkivgak, who is right here with me and who has done a great job in my office.

Elizabeth is one of dozens and dozens of children Rosie and Eben took into their bright home and loved them so much so they could love themselves.

Let me tell you a little bit about Rosie, our Alaskan of the Week. She was born in Idaho. Like too many Americans, unfortunately, she actually came from a broken home. Her mother was battling an illness and sometimes was too sick to handle Rosie and her siblings.

It was during one of those bouts of illness that Rosie herself briefly became a foster child. That experience, the experience of visiting her mother in an institution, and the kindness of neighbors who stepped up and helped during those very difficult years would form the basis of Rosie's steadfast be-

lief that helping others in your community throughout your State is a higher calling.

Eventually, Rosie moved with her family to Fairbanks when she was just a young girl. Those were good years for her and her family. She thrived in Alaska, went to college, and became a social worker for the State. Eventually, her work took her to Utqiagvik—as I mentioned, formerly Barrow, AK—where she fell in love both with her husband, Eben, and with the community.

She found in Utqiagvik that if you had a good idea and were willing to do the work and see it through, you could succeed with the help of others, and she did succeed.

At various points during her time in the North Slope Borough of our great State, she worked as the director of the city's rec department, director of the health department, and executive director of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. She also sat on the board for the Rural Alaska Community Action Plan. She was a public health nurse and was appointed director of the North Slope Borough Health Department by two different mayors. That is an impressive resume, as you see.

She now spends much of her time in Anchorage, where she volunteers for a group called Friends in Serving Humanity, or F.I.S.H.—a church network that feeds the hungry. On many days, you can find her in different communities handing out meals and food boxes often paid for out of her own pocket.

Rosie gives her all to everything she does, but one of her truly lasting contributions to Alaska and to her community is how she has taken in so many children across the State who need a home, who need support, and who need love. She took in siblings. She took in infants. She took in teenagers. She took them from all backgrounds, from all across the State, and she loved them. She was patient with them. She intuitively understood what they needed and when they needed it. Some of the children she took in were horribly abused, most others were homesick, and some were confused.

In Alaska, getting running water to households across the State has long been a major challenge, one we are still working on today. If you can believe this—this is certainly one of my passions in the Senate—we have over 30 communities in Alaska with no flush toilets, no water and sewer—in America. Many of the children who came to Rosie were from these kinds of households and these kinds of communities. Many had never flushed a toilet in their lives.

She was sensitive to all this. One of the first things she did when a child came to her was to teach her how a faucet and a bathroom and a toilet worked. Then she fed them. Rosie's cooking is renowned. She listened to them and loved them.

This is how one of her former foster children described the experience of walking into Rosie's home:

Imagine coming from a place with nothing—absolutely nothing, [poverty]—and you walk into a normal house, filled with normal things that people and the rest of America take for granted—a warm house, a flush toilet, food on the stove, adults who speak to you [kindly]. It was like visiting a toy store for the first time. It was like visiting a different planet. It showed us what [a good] life could be like.

Not all of Rosie's kids made it out of a life of challenges and dysfunction and abuse, but many of them have. Many have broken the cycle of violence in their families for the first time. Some of them, along with their biological children and the ones she has adopted, are now doing great things for our State and our country. They are successfully running businesses. They have joined the military. They have worked at high levels of government. One of them, who is sitting right here next to me on the Senate floor, works in my office. We are lucky to have Elizabeth.

All of them, regardless of where they are now “have a place in my heart,” says Rosie. Why does she do it? Why has this woman given herself to so many others and changed so many lives?

She tells a story about a time when her mother was sick and had to go back into the institution, leaving her to take care of her four younger siblings. It was Christmastime, and Rosie literally had nothing. So the neighbors got together, left boxes of presents at the door of their house, and brought over Christmas dinner when she was young and needed help. “That’s the way life is supposed to be,” Rosie said. “You’re supposed to recognize when people have less than you, and you are supposed to help them out. It doesn’t matter if you’re looking at it through a biblical lens, or through karma, or through Buddha. Giving is fundamental.” That is her quote: “Giving is fundamental.”

All the Senators here today are heading home and heading back to the great States they represent for Thanksgiving, which we will be celebrating next week—a uniquely American holiday that all of us love and cherish so much. I know I certainly do. Rosie and Eben's story and commitment to others are exactly the kinds of things we as Americans should be thankful for as we are celebrating Thanksgiving next week. Giving is fundamental. I know I am thankful for what they have done.

Their household will be full this holiday season—friends, family, children. At some point this season, she will make her famous apple sausage stuffing, a recipe she learned from her own foster mother and one she has passed down to foster kids all across the great State of Alaska. It is made with love and with kindness and with thanksgiving.

Rosie, thank you for all you have done. From the bottom of my heart,

thanks for your spirit, your generosity, and your example as we head into Thanksgiving weekend, for touching so many lives across Alaska. Congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week and happy Thanksgiving.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I have spent 3 years in the U.S. Senate. During this time, I can tell you the No. 1 issue when I am home—and I suspect it is in your State, as well, and across this country—is the cost of healthcare in this country and to be sure that everybody in this country, no matter your party, your religion, where you live, urban or rural area, has access to affordable healthcare not only when it is needed but also for preventative purposes to give you peace of mind.

Unfortunately, what we have seen is high cost; inability to get access to it, oftentimes when you are in a rural community; and a fight here in Congress. Instead of working together to solve this problem, we are too far apart in presenting a solution—in coming together for a solution.

It is open enrollment season for healthcare right now, which means Americans have an opportunity to get new healthcare coverage or change the coverage they have.

In Nevada, the State is running a new exchange website and working hard to make sure every Nevadan gets covered at NevadaHealthLink.com. I thank our fantastic exchange director, Heather Korbolic, and her team for all they are doing.

I want to encourage all Nevadans to get coverage. I don't think people realize how much help there is for individuals to get coverage at Nevada Health Link. If you want healthcare, please, please reach out by the December 15 deadline to learn more about the opportunities that are available to you to be able to afford it.

Open enrollment is a good time for us to reflect on how far we have come, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, and to take stock—to take stock—of the threats to that coverage. Unfortunately, I have watched in Congress as Members of the Republican Party, particularly this administration, try to sabotage the Affordable Care Act at every turn.

At the end of October, the Senate held a vote on Senator WARNER's resolution to overturn this administration's damaging and dangerous rule expanding so-called junk plans. My Democratic colleagues voted in favor of the resolution because they know how important healthcare is to our constituents. Yet, unfortunately, nearly all of the Senate Republicans voted against it. They voted to allow Americans to buy skimpy, low-benefit plans that send us back to the dark days of health coverage in America by allowing insurers to sidestep the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act.

These junk plans don't cover essential services like prescription drugs,

emergency room visits, mental healthcare, and maternity care. They don't prevent insurers from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions. There are about 1.2 billion of them in Nevada alone.

My colleagues on the other of the aisle argue that these junk plans are low cost. Well, they cost less than some plans, but that doesn't mean they are cheap. They may have high deductibles or exclude coverage of costly services, and, by law, more of the money they collect in premiums can go toward the insurers' profits. But when you realize that these plans provide barely any benefits, you can see, for most people, the plans are no savings at all.

What is more, because insurers often use deceptive marketing practices, people who purchase these plans don't always know just how skimpy their coverage is. Sometimes patients don't realize that their plans leave out much needed procedures until after they have racked up huge bills.

Paving the way for junk plans is just one way Republicans are undermining the Affordable Care Act. The Trump administration and 18 Republican State attorneys general are trying to get the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn the entire Affordable Care Act in a case called *Texas v. United States*. This is just the latest and one of the most dangerous of over 100 Republican attempts to get rid of the Affordable Care Act in Congress and the courts.

If the Fifth Circuit overturns the Affordable Care Act, Americans will lose the peace of mind and protections they have told us so many times that they want. The last thing Americans need is for us to turn back the clock to a time when they couldn't get healthcare for preexisting conditions or they couldn't get insurance to cover essential health needs.

This summer, I met with Ashby Bel lows and Charlie Bell, two Nevadans with juvenile diabetes. Both girls are doing well now, but their parents worry that when the girls are no longer on their parents' plan, they might opt to ration their insulin. Think about that—ration their insulin. Unfortunately, it is a common practice among people who cannot afford the often sky-high cost of insulin, and it can be deadly. In fact, one out of seven Americans knows someone who passed away in the last 5 years because they couldn't afford treatment for a medical condition.

Senate Republicans have told their constituents that they will protect Americans' healthcare, and President Trump has said he has a plan to provide Americans with healthcare. Well, where is it? I mean, the only plan we have seen is an attempt to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and rip away coverage from hundreds of thousands in Nevada and millions across America.

My Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to ensure that everyone in this country has access to affordable

healthcare. Unfortunately, what I have seen on the other side of the aisle and in this administration is that they are fighting to take it away. There is a clear distinction between the two, and I think the American public is tired of it.

We all should be working in a bipartisan way to make sure that everyone in this country has access to affordable healthcare. I will continue to vote for comprehensive and affordable healthcare in this country, and I will continue pushing to strengthen the Affordable Care Act and reduce prescription drug costs for Nevadans. I will keep fighting to ensure that Americans stay safe and healthy, and I will assure you that I will keep talking to my colleagues so that, hopefully, one day we will be fighting for the same thing, which is to ensure that everyone in this country, no matter your background or where you live, has access to affordable healthcare when you need it—when you need that coverage and you want to protect a loved one.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns about the President's recent interference in war crimes cases involving members of the U.S. military and the President's inappropriate public statements regarding these cases.

The President has the power to pardon, but he has a responsibility to use that power wisely, not recklessly. The way he has gone about it in this instance does a real disservice to our troops and the entire American military justice system.

Good order and discipline are critical and time-honored traits of the U.S. military, not only to enable military readiness and effectiveness but also to ensure that military men and women remain firmly tethered to our Nation's moral and ethical principles in the most demanding wartime environments.

A few have argued that the President has the authority to pardon, but that is a false defense. The issue is that the President's intervention in these cases sends a damaging message to the world, our adversaries, and, most importantly, our men and women in uniform. The Commander in Chief's actions should make us safer and stronger in the world, but President Trump's actions do not.

The cases in which the President intervened fall far outside of the norm. The President's pardon authority has traditionally been reserved for non-violent infractions, including draft evasion and desertion. I am aware of no other instance in which a President has intervened to grant clemency for violent crimes committed while in uniform, especially for war crimes including murder.

Especially concerning is the President's decision to intervene in a case

prior to its even going to trial—an action that I believe is an insult to our entire system of military justice.

Just this morning, the President again intervened—via tweet—to stop a Navy administrative review process that could have resulted in the removal of a servicemember from the Navy SEALs, despite the fact that the servicemember was previously found guilty of posing for photos with a dead ISIS fighter. We must expect more from our military men and women, especially those in our Special Operations forces.

Regrettably, President Trump has repeatedly advocated for a return to torture, stating that we should “take out the families” of terrorists and expressing his view on standards of military conduct by saying: “You have to play the game the way they are playing the game.” The President's statements are reminiscent of former Vice President Cheney's embrace of the “dark side” of counterterrorism—the very kind of thinking that underpinned later abuses at Abu Ghraib and the CIA's use of torture as part of its so-called Detention and Interrogation Program.

President Trump tweeted in October that “we train our boys to be killing machines, then prosecute them when they kill!”

No, Mr. President, the U.S. military does not prosecute its own for carrying out lawful missions in service to our Nation. We do not train our troops to kill indiscriminately. We do not train them to attack noncombatants. We do not train them to violate the Geneva Convention and the rule of law because we want our troops to be protected by those same standards. To think or say otherwise is to go against discipline, the selfless service of so many, and the history of our military.

As former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GEN Dempsey wrote in May:

Absent evidence of innocence or injustice the wholesale pardon of US servicemembers accused of war crimes signals our troops and allies that we don't take the Law of Armed Conflict seriously. Bad message. Bad precedent. Abdication of moral responsibility. Risk to us.

I couldn't agree more.

Some have claimed that the President's intervention in this case has somehow improved the morale of our military and given them more confidence on the battlefield. On the contrary, President Trump's disregard for our military justice system risks undermining the confidence of our servicemembers in the rule of law—especially those who are courageous enough to bring allegations of war crimes to light and testify against their teammates.

By substituting his judgment for that of commanders and military juries, the President may also inadvertently increase the risk to our U.S. personnel overseas. When we do not hold our military personnel to appropriate standards of conduct, it makes it more likely that they will face similar

abuses on the battlefield and less likely that we will be able to hold our enemies accountable.

There is no one with more credibility and no one with the service and sacrifice who can say it any better or more authentically than former Senator John McCain, who stated:

This is a moral debate. It is about who we are. I don't mourn the loss of any terrorist's life. What I do mourn is what we lose when by official policy or official neglect we confuse or encourage those who fight this war for us to forget that best sense of ourselves. Through the violence, chaos, and heartache of war, through deprivation and cruelty and loss, we are always Americans, and different, stronger, and better than those who would destroy us.

Those are the words of John McCain.

I believe the President's actions minimize the honorable service of all U.S. servicemembers who have served with discipline and distinction since 9/11 and have answered our Nation's call throughout the history of this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. 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.

HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken previously about the alarming rates of corruption, violent crime, and impunity in Honduras. While Honduras is by no means unique in this regard, it is a serious concern given the challenges it poses not only for the people of Honduras but also for the United States.

Every week, my office receives word of another assassination in Honduras of a social leader, environmental activist, indigenous rights activist, journalist, or trade unionist. Rarely does a week go by that we do not hear about threats against these individuals. Rarely does a week go by that we do not receive reports of arbitrary and prolonged imprisonment of critics of government policies or practices. While the murder of Berta Caceres on March 3, 2016, captured the world's attention, that outrageous crime was but one of many targeted killings of Hondurans

who have dared to protest against corruption, infrastructure development that threatens their land, water, farms and communities, excessive force by the military and police, and the lack of access to justice.

These types of crimes are nothing new in Honduras; in fact, they are shockingly common. But they have noticeably increased in frequency since the conviction in a New York Federal court on October 18 of Tony Hernandez, a notorious drug kingpin and the brother of President Juan Orlando Hernandez who was named as an unindicted coconspirator. It begs credulity that President Hernandez was completely unaware of the actions of his brother or of the reported use of profits from drug trafficking to finance his political campaign. Honduras, which was already among the most corrupt and dangerous countries in the world for those who have dared to challenge the dominance of a tiny elite who continue to wield unbridled control over the political and economic levers of the country, has become even more corrupt and dangerous.

Ever since President Hernandez successfully orchestrated his reelection to an unprecedented second term, the country has become increasingly polarized. Social and political dissent, when the government's consistent response is to use force—including lethal force—and to misuse the judicial process to silence its critics, fuels instability and violence which are among the key drivers of migration. This is what we are seeing in Honduras, and the United States shares some of the blame as our Embassy and the Department of Defense continue to publicly portray their engagement with the Hernandez Government as business as usual.

There is only one person who has the authority and responsibility to lead Honduras down a better path, a path toward real stability and a culture of lawfulness, and that is President Hernandez. The election of his successor is only 2 years away. In the time remaining, President Hernandez could use what credibility he has left and take decisive action to begin a process of reconciliation aimed at uniting the Honduran people in pursuit of the common goals of economic opportunity, personal security, and justice. Doing so would require a fundamental change of attitude and approach, including installing people in key positions of government who have unimpeachable integrity and who represent a wide spectrum of Honduran society.

Absent such enlightened leadership, Honduras will likely remain a fractured society, plagued by instability, rampant poverty, violence, and impunity. Honduras's democratic institutions will continue to be corrupted and eroded, and Hondurans will continue to seek a better, safer life outside their country.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I vividly recall the feeling of optimism that people in this country and around the world felt on that day in Washington in 1993 when Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat signed the Oslo Accords. For those too young to remember, the Oslo process began as secret negotiations in Oslo, resulting in the recognition by the PLO of the State of Israel and the recognition by Israel of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people for the purpose of direct negotiations between the two parties. The Oslo Accords marked the formal start of that process, which aimed at achieving a peace treaty based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and at fulfilling the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

The negotiations were to focus on resolving the key issues in dispute: Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem, Israel's military presence in and control over remaining territories after Israel's recognition of Palestinian autonomy, and the return of Palestinian refugees. It was hoped and believed that the signing of the Oslo Accords was the beginning of the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of a process that would culminate in a two-state solution with secure borders for both Israel and a new Palestinian state.

Since then, virtually nothing has occurred as envisioned. Prime Minister Rabin, a visionary leader whom I knew and greatly respected, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. Over the years, time after time, the hopes and aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians have been dashed. Israelis have suffered countless deadly attacks by Hamas and by other Palestinian extremists. The Palestinians have suffered countless humiliations and assassinations. But despite the many setbacks, missed opportunities, and failures of leadership on both sides, I have never felt that the Oslo process was a lost cause—until today. Today, I feel a greater sense of sorrow and discouragement about that once hopeful vision than I ever have before.

On Monday, Secretary of State Pompeo announced that the administration no longer considers Israeli settlements to be contrary to international law, thereby reversing a longstanding U.S. position that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal. That position was based on adherence to international law and UN Security Council resolutions and was embraced by both Democratic and Republican administrations. Upon learning of this change of position, I could not help but feel that it signified the demise of the Oslo Accords. After so many similar reversals of U.S. positions by this White House on key issues that both sides had pledged would be resolved only through negotiations, it seems beyond dispute that President Trump never believed in a two-state solution.

In fact, this White House has been consistently disingenuous about its intentions in the Middle East, all the time talking about wanting a political settlement but acting in ways that put it increasingly out of reach. It was just a matter of time before they abandoned any pretext of supporting the principle that territorial disputes should be resolved through dialogue. Every step of the way, administration officials have insisted on the myth that they are improving the prospects for peace, but 3 years later, Israelis and Palestinians are farther from that goal than at any time since 1993. The White House, with the support and encouragement of the U.S. Ambassador and the Secretary of State, has done whatever it could to ensure that the West Bank, home to nearly 3 million Palestinians, is occupied permanently or annexed by Israel.

Without a change of leadership with the necessary vision and political courage in the United States and in Israel, the Palestinians will remain as second-class citizens, subjected to a lifetime of indignities and entitled to only limited rights. I cannot help but wonder what my friend Prime Minister Rabin would be thinking today and how he would react to this announcement. I suspect he would be as disappointed as I am that his courageous act more than a quarter century ago, and the opportunity that act offered for lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians, has been so selfishly and recklessly squandered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 360, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 488, Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-67 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$245 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(for Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Australia.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 0 million.
Other \$245 million.
Total \$245 million.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.
Non-MDE: Up to eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Increment 1 Block 1 (JCREW 11B1) Systems (533 vehicle mounted and 317 dismounted); spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; technical exchanges, publications and technical documentation; support equipment; engineering change proposals; classified software/loadsets; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support.
- (iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-LGA).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-LFX.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 20, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—JCREW Systems and Support

The Government of Australia has requested to buy up to eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Increment 1 Block 1 (JCREW 11B1) Systems (533 vehicle mounted and 317 dismounted); spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; technical exchanges, publications and technical documentation; support equipment; engineering change proposals; classified software/loadsets; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$245 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political

and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

The proposed sale will provide Australia increased force protection from Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device threats for its defense forces and vehicles. Australia is interested in procuring the dismounted and mounted variants that have a modular, open architecture and are upgradeable in order to maintain capability against evolving global threats. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Northrop Grumman Corporation, San Diego, California. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. Australia's requirement for 850 JCREW I1B1 systems could potentially include:
(1) Expeditionary Warfare, Force Protection, (2) Techniques for the Defeat of Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices, (3) Force Protection, Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (4) Capabilities and Limitations of Electronic Warfare Systems, and, (5) Threat Assessment from Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices.
- 2. The Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare technical insertion development may contain sensitive technology; however, defined requirements are not known at this time and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 3. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.
- 4. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter

references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-69 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of New Zealand for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.4 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of New Zealand.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment \$.6 billion.
Other \$.8 billion.
Total \$1.4 billion.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Five (5) C-130J Aircraft.
Twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D3 Turbo Prop Engines (20 installed, 4 spares).
Fifteen (15) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGIs) with GPS Security Devices, Airborne (10 installed, 5 spares).
Eight (8) Multi-Information Distribution System (MIDS)/Link-16 Low Video Terminal (LVT)-BU2 (5 installed, 3 spares).
Thirteen (13) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM (Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) (10 installed, 3 spares).
Nineteen (19) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly for LAIRCM (15 installed, 4 spares).

Non-MDE: Also includes eight (8) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning System (MWS); eight (8) AN/APN-241 Low Power Color Radar; eight (8) AN/ALR-56M Missile Warning System Receiver; fifteen (15) AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System; six (6) MX-20HD Electro-Optical/Infrared Imaging System; forty-four (44) Missile Warning System, LAIRCM; Control Interface Unit Replacement, LAIRCM; classified memory cards, LAIRCM; Low Volume Terminal Cryptographic Modules KIV-55; AN/ARC-210 RT-1990A(C) Radio; AN/ARC-164(V) RT-1518 Radio; AN/ARC-153 Tactical Air Navigation; AN/ARN-147 VHF Receiver; AN/ARC-190 HF Radio; AN/ARC-222 VHF Radio w/SINGARS; Classified Tactical Manuals; Cartridge Activated Devices/Propellant Activated Devices; M206 Flares; MJU-64/B Decoy; BBU-35A/B Impulse Carts; Joint Mission Planning System; Classified Computer Identification Numbers; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S.

Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NZ-D-SAB and NZ-D-QAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 20, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

New Zealand—C-130J Aircraft

The Government of New Zealand has requested to buy five (5) C-130J aircraft; twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D3 turboprop engines (20 installed, 4 spares); fifteen (15) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGIs) with GPS security devices, airborne (10 installed, 5 spares); eight (8) Multi-Information Distribution System (MIDS)/Link-16 Low Video Terminal (LVT)-BU2 (5 installed, 3 spares); thirteen (13) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM (Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) (10 installed, 3 spares); and nineteen (19) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly for LAIRCM (15 installed, 4 spares). Also included are eight (8) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning System (MWS); eight (8) AN/APN-241 Low Power Color Radar; eight (8) AN/ALR-56M Missile Warning System Receiver; fifteen (15) AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System; six (6) MX-20HD Electro-Optical/Infrared Imaging System; forty-four (44) Missile Warning Sensor, LAIRCM; Control Interface Unit Replacement, LAIRCM; classified memory cards, LAIRCM; Low Volume Terminal Cryptographic Modules KIV-55; AN/ARC-210 RT-1990A(C) Radio; AN/ARC-164(V) RT-1518 Radio; AN/ARC-153 Tactical Air Navigation; AN/ARN-147 VHF Receiver; AN/ARC-190 HF Radio; AN/ARC-222 VHF Radio w/SINCGARS; Classified Tactical Manuals; Cartridge Activated Devices/Propellant Activated Devices; M206 Flares; MJU-64/B Decoy; BBU-35A/B Impulse Carts; Joint Mission Planning System; Classified Computer Identification Numbers; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated value is \$1.40 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability, and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposed sale will improve New Zealand's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its current airlift capability.

This proposed sale will provide the capability to support national, United Nations, and other coalition operations. This purchase also includes sensors and performance improvements that will assist New Zealand during extensive maritime surveillance and reconnaissance as well as improve its search and rescue capability. Additionally, the extra cargo capacity and aircraft performance will greatly increase New Zealand's Antarctic mission capabilities while simultaneously increasing safety margins. New Zealand currently operates the C-130H aircraft and will have no difficulty absorbing

this equipment and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Ft Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of up to three U.S. contractor representatives to New Zealand.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The C-130J Hercules with Rolls Royce AE 2100D Turboprop Engines is a military airlift aircraft that performs primarily the tactical portion of the airlift mission. The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for air dropping troops and equipment into hostile areas. The C-130J improvements over the C-130E include improved maximum speed, climb time, cruising altitude and range. The C-130J has 55 feet of cargo compartment length, an additional 15 feet over the original "short" aircraft. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. Embedded GPS-INS (EGI) LN-260 is a sensor that combines GPS and inertial sensor inputs to provide accurate location information for navigation and targeting.

3. Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. The MIDS terminal hardware, publications, performance specifications, operational capability, parameters, vulnerabilities to countermeasures, and software documentation are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The classified information to be provided consists of that which is necessary for the operation, maintenance, and repair (through intermediate level) of the data link terminal, installed systems, and related software.

4. The AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The system features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting incoming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Missile Warning Sensors, Guardian Laser Turret Assemblies (GLTA), LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a classified User Data Memory (UDM) card containing the laser jam codes. The UDM card is loaded into LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR) prior to flight; when not in use, the UDM card is removed from the LSPR and put in secure storage. The Missile Warning Sensors (MWS) for AN/AAQ-24 (V)N are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The MWS detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate data signals to the LSPR for processing. The LSPR analyzes the data from each sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The CIUR

displays the incoming threat. The LSPR also contains Built-In-Test (BIT) circuitry.

5. The AN/ALE-47 Counter-Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) is an integrated, threat adaptive, software-programmable dispensing system capable of dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The threats countered by the CMDS include radar directed anti-aircraft artillery, radar command-guided missiles, radar homing guided missiles, and infrared guided missiles. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board EW and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and to determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

6. The AN/AAR-47A(V)2 Missile Warning System is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual-sector warning messages to the aircrew. The basic system consists of multiple Optical Sensor Converter (OSC) units, a Computer Processor (CP) and a Control Indicator (CL). The set of OSC units, which normally consist of four, is mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The OSC detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate signals to the CP for processing. The CP analyses the data from each OSC and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasures. The CP also contains comprehensive BIT circuitry. The CI displays the incoming direction of the threat, so that the pilot can take appropriate action. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

7. The AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver continuously detects and intercepts RF signals in certain frequency ranges and analyzes and separates threat signals from nonthreat signals. It contributes to full-dimensional protection by providing individual aircraft probability of survival through improved aircrew situational awareness of the radar guided threat environment. The ALR-56M is designed to provide improved performance in a dense signal environment and improved detection of modern threats signals. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

8. Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is a multi-platform PC based mission planning system. JMPS hardware is UNCLASSIFIED but the software is classified up to SECRET.

9. The MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi field of view Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

10. This sale will involve the release of sensitive and/or classified cryptographic equipment for secure communications radios, precision navigation, and cryptographic appliances and keying equipment. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, except where systems are loaded with cryptographic software, which may be classified up to SECRET.

11. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

12. A determination has been made that New Zealand can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of New Zealand.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a critical and often hidden issue facing our Nation. Each year, nearly 18,000 foster children across our country age out of the system with no permanent place to call home. Right now, over 125,000 foster children are eligible for adoption and waiting for their forever family. Over 1,600 of those children live in Nevada. Every single child deserves a safe, loving, and permanent family.

November is National Adoption Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the many ways that families are created, including through adoption. There are children in our communities, waiting to belong, to be loved, and to be a part of what so many of us take for granted. Sitting down to a meal with a parent, knowing you have a family member in the audience at a school event or knowing that someone is, indeed, waiting up to make sure you get home safe and by curfew. The very idea that someone cares enough to make sure homework is done, and to listen when your day doesn't go so well does immeasurable good for children.

Our Nation's foster children are in a situation that is no fault of their own. Most are there due to severe neglect or abuse. They have experienced trauma. They have been suddenly taken away from all they know, bringing few possessions, stored in a garbage bag, with them as they move from home to home. The goal is always to reunite foster children with their biological families if it can be done safely, but unfortunately, that isn't always an option. For the children who remain in our foster system, we can and must do better.

Absolutely no child is unadoptable. By working together, we can achieve a future where every child in our Nation knows without a doubt they belong and they have a family. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about adoption to visit www.adoptuskids.org or reach out to local community organizations to find out more about how to get involved with mentoring or supporting foster children in other ways.

As I hear from constituents about the work they do to help raise awareness and improve outcomes for foster youth, I am so encouraged. I remain

committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to create a brighter future for our most vulnerable children.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIS MCKENNIE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an inspiring young man, Ellis McKennie. I had the good fortune of getting to know Ellis when he was an intern in my office, first in the summer of 2018 in my State office and then again this past summer in Washington. He was a diligent worker, always searching for ways to help. He was keen to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. One thing that became obvious right away is that Ellis is an empathetic young man; in one instance, as a youngster, he asked his mother to make lunches for less fortunate fellow students. I am very grateful to Ellis for his service to the people of Maryland during his internships and for his service to the University of Maryland as the epitome of a student athlete. Ellis has been an offensive lineman on the Terrapins' football team for the last 4 years. Perhaps more important than his leadership on the field, though, has been his leadership off the field, where he has advocated fiercely for meaningful athletic reform in the wake of his boyhood friend and teammate Jordan McNair's tragic death from heatstroke last year. Ellis has worked hard to mobilize his teammates and the entire campus to become more engaged politically. In recognition of his ability to bring people together for positive change, the student body elected Ellis to the university senate this year.

Somehow, among Ellis's football career, activism, and student governance, he has also found time to set an exemplary academic record, twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors and completing his undergraduate degree in just 3 years. Now, while he plays his final season for the Terrapins, he is busy earning a graduate degree in public policy. Next, Ellis plans to attend law school and hopes to serve as an elected official 1 day, perhaps here in the Senate.

I have been so impressed by everything that Ellis has been able to accomplish at such a young age and by everything that he aspires to achieve in the future. Most of all, I am proud of his enduring commitment to building community, helping those in need, and fighting for what's right. Young people like Ellis should reassure all of us that the future of our country is in capable hands.

On November 20, the Baltimore Sun ran an article by Don Markus entitled "Maryland's Ellis McKennie found his voice when Jordan McNair died. Now he looks to finish his career strong." The article captures the qualities that make Ellis such a special young man. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARYLAND'S ELLIS MCKENNIE FOUND HIS VOICE WHEN JORDAN MCNAIR DIED. NOW HE LOOKS TO FINISH HIS CAREER STRONG.

(By Don Markus)

Ellis McKennie spent his first three years at Maryland as a nondescript reserve offensive lineman, redshirting his first season after graduating from McDonogh and serving as a little-used backup the next two.

It took the death of Jordan McNair—a fellow offensive lineman who had been more like a little brother since they grew up on the same street in Randallstown—for McKennie to find his voice.

It then took McKennie getting a role this season, briefly as a versatile reserve and then as a starter in seven games at four positions, to have the platform to use it.

"As someone who's a leader on this team. I feel confident to express the feelings and attitude of the team," McKennie said last week, sitting in the auditorium of the Gossett Team House. "I'm that way to Coach [Mike Locksley], too.

"I'm on the leadership council and I'm one of the guys coach is asking, 'Where do you think the team's at?' I'm that voice for him and when the media comes asking the same questions. I'm confident that I can represent the team in a good way in the public light."

Going into Saturday's senior day matchup with Nebraska (4-6, 2-5 Big Ten), McKennie is hoping that he can help Maryland (3-7, 1-5) end a five-game losing streak.

"I can't stress how important it is for us to beat Nebraska," McKennie said. "I can still remember singing the alma mater after the Syracuse game [a 63-20 win on Sept 7] thinking, 'I can't wait to do this some more this season.' If that's the last time I get to sing the alma mater at Maryland Stadium, that'll be tough for me to handle. I'm going to do whatever I can to get this win."

McKennie's role as a leader for the Terps began to evolve in the weeks and months after the 19-year-old McNair's death from heatstroke in June 2018.

It was McKennie and then-sophomore center Johnny Jordan who were designated to speak when the still-grieving team met with the media for the first time in late August.

It was McKennie who carried the flag with McNair's jersey number—79—out for the 2018 season opener at FedEx Field and waved it after the Terps upset than-No. 23 Texas, 34-29.

It was also McKennie who walked out with a couple of his teammates from a team meeting after former coach DJ Durkin, who had been put on administrative leave in the aftermath of McNair's death, had briefly been reinstated in late October. Durkin was fired by university President Wallace D. Loh the following day.

"They say in the face of tragedy that people get closer together, and that's what happened on this team," McKennie said. "We lost a brother, but at the same time, when you go through something like that with a group of people and you come out the other side, you have a different kind of relationship with them. That role during that whole time period just kind of fluidly turned into a leadership role on the field this season."

Jodi McKennie wasn't surprised that her middle child became the de facto team spokesman among the Maryland players.

"From the time he was a little boy, he was the most empathetic child you could meet," she said last week. "He could not stand to see anyone he thought was suffering in any way."

It meant asking his mother to make extra lunches for other kids who didn't have food

at home to bring to school or to have her put money on the accounts of less fortunate students. At Maryland, it took shape McNair's death.

The leadership piece took over because he is definitely led by his moral compass, and that comes from understanding right from wrong and what happened to Jordan was so hard on him that he could no longer be quiet," Jodi McKennie said.

His father's five-year stint as the boys basketball coach at Archbishop Curley also had an impact on the younger McKennie.

"I had a couple of kids who had problems with their family and he would see Dad get up and go and do things [for the players]," the elder McKennie said Monday. "It was the same for me. When I got to college, I didn't realize my Dad, who was a Marine Corps dude, was in my brain. You don't realize until it has to be shown."

Recalling when his son walked out on Durkin, the elder McKennie said his son called him beforehand to tell him of his intentions.

"I said, 'Ellis, before you do anything, do you want to talk about it?' and he said, 'Dad, I got this,'" the elder McKennie said.

McKennie doesn't think he would have been any less a leader this season had he not worked his way up the depth chart and into a starting role.

"I have a type of rapport with teammates, they know what I'm about, and that I actually care about this team and this university," McKennie said. "Whether I'm playing, whether I'm having a good game or a bad game, whether I'm on scout team, it wouldn't make a difference, just the type of guy that I am."

Said senior defensive tackle Brett Kulka: "Ellis is great. He's definitely a leader. You can see that in the locker room as a whole. He's an encouraging player. He likes to help younger guys. He understands what it takes to win in terms of you need everyone on the team. He really embraces that role."

It has been more than 17 months since McNair died and McKennie said it is unlikely that he will ever get over it completely. He had known McNair since they were kids and McNair played Little League baseball on a team coached by McKennie's father.

"You're never going to feel normal. It almost turns into a new type of normal, it's a new reality you've got to live it," McKennie said. "I can't lie and say I don't think about it every day. I get texts from his parents before every game. . . . You're never going to move on from it."

"I think it was important that when Coach Locks got here, he had a meeting with a bunch of us and he said, 'We can move on without forgetting Jordan. We can take steps forward, but we'll not forget where we came from and not forget Jordan in any sort of way.'"

Even though the patch of grass at Maryland Stadium with McNair's number has grown over, McKennie said, "Internally we honor him every day. His locker is still in our locker room. We pray in front of it before every game."

Four years later, McKennie is only one of three players remaining from the 19 members of the 2015 recruiting class, along with linebacker Isaiah Davis and defensive end Keiron Howard.

"There are less than 10 guys from my class that made it through their eligibility," McKennie said. "Our class is extremely interesting because it's been filled with so much turmoil. A lot of guys didn't finish, but we also had two first-round draft picks, DJ Moore and Darnell Savage. So it's like a pretty big spectrum. I've been the only offensive lineman left for two years."

Locksley said Tuesday that the person and player he helped recruit to Maryland while

serving as the team's offensive coordinator has grown tremendously in the past five years.

"He's a guy that's been directly affected with the three full-time coaches, two interims, the loss of a former high school teammate [and] dear friend, and this kid continues to stand strong." Locksley said at his Tuesday news conference, where he announced that McKennie and three other seniors would serve as captains for Saturday's game.

"He's one of the guys you can sell the University of Maryland with. He's the epitome of a student-athlete. He's a guy that has the right kind of habits and behaviors, where he's going to be really successful on the field and off the field. Really I can't say enough great things about the leadership that he's provided, not just for the players, but even to me as the head coach. He's the epitome of what a Maryland player should look like."

For much of his career, McKennie focused "pretty heavily" on the front half of his hyphenated position as a student-athlete, graduating in three years with a degree in government and politics and then working on his master's degree in public policy, which he will finish in the coming weeks as he gets ready to start studying for his LSATs and a career as a lawyer or politician.

"We used to joke that he would be the first black president and then we had [Barack] Obama so now we're banking on him being the second black president," his mother said.

Even with what he has accomplished off the field—twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors, being elected to the university senate during the 2019-20 academic year, interning for U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) last summer—McKennie thinks of himself mostly as a Maryland football player.

"That's what I do every day," he said. "There hasn't been a day in the past five years when I haven't come to this building aside from a few holidays. It's going to be a weird change. I'm looking forward to what's next for me, but I'm definitely going to miss everything that has come about. I'm starting to appreciate things differently now. I'm going to practice not dreading practice anymore. I'm happy to be there with my teammates."

Unlike many of his former teammates who left long before their eligibility expired or moved on the moment they played their final game, McKennie said there will always be an attachment.

"I love this university and I love what it means to be a Terrapin," McKennie said. "It means so much more to me than just playing on Saturday. If it was about playing time, I still wouldn't be here. I should have gone somewhere else and played a little bit sooner. It means so much to me to represent this university and represent this state that I've called home for most of my life, that's the most important part to me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND HANNA CANADA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gary and Hanna Canada for receiving the American Bankers Association's Bruning Award. This award is dedicated to bankers who demonstrate a strong sense of leadership and dedication to providing financial guidance and credit to ranchers, farmers, and businesses in rural America.

The Canadas are well known throughout southern Arkansas for their partnership running their business hand-in-hand, which helps explain why, for first time in the 22-year history, the award has been presented to a team of ag bankers.

Gary Canada began his professional career as a teacher and coach, eventually working his way up to principal. In 1975, Gary joined the Bank of England and climbed the ranks to become the chairman and president of the bank. Over the years, Gary has served on numerous committees and boards, including the ABA's Agricultural and Rural Bankers Committee, Arkansas Rice Council, and Bayou Metro Irrigation District. In addition to his work with the bank, Gary has farmed cotton, rice, and wheat and run a cow and calf operation.

Similarly, Hanna Canada began her career as a teacher before working at the Bank of England. Her early years at the bank consisted of working as a teller before transitioning to board secretary assisting with policies. Hanna currently serves as the executive vice president of the Bank of England and member of the board of directors. Along with her hard work and dedication to the bank, she also serves as an emergency medical technician.

Gary and Hanna Canada demonstrate what it means to give back to your community. Every opportunity they have had to help those in need, they have not hesitated to step in and lend a hand. In addition, Hanna hopes to inspire other women to step into leadership roles in the agriculture banking community. The couple's desire to grow the farming community in the State is remarkable and reveals why they are so well-deserving of this recognition.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Canadas for their hard work, dedication, and leadership to the city of England, the ag community in their area, and the State of Arkansas. I am grateful for their work and for the ABA recognizing their careers and contributions with the Bruning Award.●

TRIBUTE TO PARKER WALTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Parker Walter of Madison County for his extraordinary bravery in the face of danger.

In late September, the American Red Cross awarded 6-year-old Parker Walter with a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action from their National Lifesaving Award Program. This was the first time in 20 years that a Montanan has received the distinguished Lifesaving Award from the American Red Cross. Parker heroically saved his 4-year-old brother Cooper from drowning when he slipped into a rushing irrigation ditch behind their home. Parker immediately screamed out to his mother and grandmother to alert them and quickly ran over to pull his younger

brother from the ditch. Parker's swift action and response saved Cooper's life.

It is my honor to recognize Parker for his incredible lifesaving action. Parker has made all of Montana proud for his bravery.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DINSDALE

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Chris Dinsdale, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Chris is a banker and cattleman from Sterling, CO, who has devoted his life to benefiting his community.

Chris is the coowner of his own business, while also serving on multiple boards, and is the current cochairman of the Bank of Colorado. No matter his role, he works tirelessly to help our rural communities grow and ensure our agricultural producers are among the most successful in the country. His passion for Colorado can be seen in every action he takes.

I remember commenting to Chris about some of the new banks he was building in several towns across eastern Colorado. He smiled in response and said that he knew some of the banks would probably never make enough money to pay for the cost of the building but that "the community had been so good to them" that he wanted to repay the town with a beautiful new business they could be proud of. This is the kind of person Chris is, one who puts the community before himself, the kind of person who makes Colorado special.

Chris's knowledge and expertise in Colorado agriculture has been recognized throughout the State, as Chris has earned several coveted awards from his community, including—Sterling's Business Person of the Year, Elk Businessman of the Year, and Logan County Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award. These awards demonstrate his ability to not only grow his own business but his ability to create a better Colorado through his investments in new infrastructure, as well as tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities throughout the Eastern Plains. The impact Chris has had and will continue to have will benefit generations of Colorado agriculture.

I am proud to call Chris a friend, and he is more than deserving of this great honor.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HANAVAN

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Charles Hanavan, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Charles has been a bedrock to the Colorado farming community and has been committed to upholding the legacy of family farming.

Charles was a longtime leader within the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, in

which he served as president from 1968 to 1970. Following that, he spent the next 11 years as vice president. During his time, he called on all residents, smalltown businessmen, farmers, and ranchers in rural communities to work with one another in order to prosper. In a memorable speech, he stated: "We must build and not destroy our rural towns, build and not eliminate our independent farmers and ranchers; we need and must have a coalition for survival." In 1991, he was granted honorary life membership and awarded Meritorious Service to the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union for his countless efforts to the organization and the community.

Furthering his commitment to rural farming communities, Charles served with the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Committee Board, which helped farmers establish themselves when banks would not offer them loans. Additionally, he served on the Colorado Highway Commission, the Colorado Farm Service Agency State Committee, as well as the Colorado Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Through all of his roles, Charles has continued to seek innovative practices to improve agricultural operations in the state.

Charles is married to Patsy, and the two are the proud parents of 12 children, 33 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. His father settled on a farm south of Arapahoe in 1919, and they still own and operate that farm today.

Charles is a true example of what it means to be committed to family and community, and he is extremely deserving of this prestigious honor.●

TRIBUTE TO DON SHAWCROFT

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Don Shawcroft, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Don is a fourth-generation Coloradan from the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, whose leadership has helped push the State's agricultural industry forward.

Don graduated from Brigham Young University from the agricultural economics department. From there, he served as the State board member for the San Luis Valley to the Colorado Farm Bureau for many years and was vice president for 10 of those years. In 2010, he was elected president and in 2013 was elected to serve on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Additionally, Don has served on the Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Board, a role in which he is on the boards of all its wholly owned subsidiaries, which most recently include the Colorado Farm Bureau Insurance Company.

Outside of the numerous Farm Bureau roles, Don has found time to be the director of the San Luis Valley Health and Mountain States Legal Foundation, further contributing his commitment to the State of Colorado and its communities.

The Shawcroft family has been ranching in the San Luis Valley since the late 1800s, and Don is continuing the family partnership. He is the husband to Ann, and the two have raised 6 children and have 17 grandchildren. The first time I saw the family farm, I was struck not only by the great beauty of the homestead, but by the pride and twinkle in the eye of a proud Colorado farmer.

The State of Colorado is fortunate to have Don's continued commitment to his community and the Colorado Farm Bureau, and he is beyond deserving of this honor.●

RECOGNIZING KELLOGG LUMBER

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Kellogg Lumber in Kellogg as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 21, 2019. Kellogg Lumber is a retail lumber and hardware store owned by U.S. Army veteran Steve Bristow. Bristow's grandfather, Daniel Fultz, began working as a bookkeeper for the company in 1951 and worked his way to become owner in the 1960s. Following a devastating fire in 1955, Fultz rebuilt the company and in 1989 passed it on to his son, Ronald Bristow. Ronald Bristow's son, Steve, and his wife, Teirza, acquired the company in 2007 and remain its owners today.

The company sells building materials, such as plywood, paint, and power tools, and serves clients who seek personal or commercial construction and remodels. Kellogg Lumber partners with well-known community vendors to provide reliable, quality products to their customers, who include homeowners, builders, and contractors. Many customers have relied on the company to serve their construction needs for more than 25 years. Bristow and the employees at Kellogg Lumber's hard work and expertise have earned them a reputation for exceptional customer service in the Kellogg community.

Congratulations to Steve and Teirza Bristow and all of the employees at Kellogg Lumber for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 21, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:26 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, 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. 182. An act to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

H.R. 255. An act to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes.

H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 737. An act to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

H.R. 925. An act to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024.

H.R. 1088. An act to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal Land in President's Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1446. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1472. An act to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

H.R. 1487. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of

Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Huizenga of Michigan.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1838. An act to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710. An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills.

S. 862. An act to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

H.R. 3055. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3889. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections.

H.R. 4258. An act to authorize the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect the Justices, employees, and official guests of the Supreme Court outside of the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 3:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1309. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 182. An act to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 255. An act to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 737. An act to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1088. An act to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal Land in President's Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1309. An act 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1446. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1472. An act to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1487. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2920. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 21, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 862. An act to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

S. 1838. An act to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710. An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 860. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-160).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1882. A bill to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-161).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1294. A bill to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment (Rept. No. 116-162).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Bernard Maurice Jones II, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Thomas Michael O'Connor, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Ralph Ignatius Sozio, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2923. A bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2924. A bill to establish the Bandelier National Park and Preserve in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2925. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 2926. A bill to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2927. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2928. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize the Univer-

sity Sustainability Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2929. A bill to protect victims of crime or serious labor violations from removal during Department of Homeland Security enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2930. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2931. A bill to establish a process for obtaining a Federal certificate of rehabilitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 2932. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require broadcasters to obtain permission to transmit content owned by another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2933. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require a review of current exemptions granted to foreign entities in response to an attempt by a foreign authority to exercise direct supervisory authority over a domestic derivatives clearing organization; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2934. A bill to clarify United States policy toward Libya, advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya, and support the people of Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2935. A bill to prohibit the appointment of former fossil fuel executive officers and fossil fuel lobbyists as the heads of certain departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2936. A bill to provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, to provide for the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Hemisphere, and to modify certain special immigrant visa programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2937. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to require employers to allow employees to take meal, medical, and restroom breaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2938. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to

support workers who are subject to an employment loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2939. A bill to provide an 8-year extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2940. A bill to amend the National Aviation Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the National Aviation Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2941. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consumer recycling education and outreach grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2942. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain contributions by government entities are treated as contributions to capital; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2943. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to revise minimum nurse staffing requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program and for nursing facilities under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2944. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include digital breast tomosynthesis as a primary and preventative health care service under the military health system and the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2945. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the Ernest "Ernie" T. Pyle Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2946. A bill to provide direct appropriations for certain housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2947. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to finalize a rule to protect consumers from the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning from keyless ignition motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2948. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for work therapy using service dog training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. MCSALLY,

Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2949. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2950. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH)):

S. 2951. A bill to facilitate the development of affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2952. A bill to reauthorize certain National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2953. A bill to provide congressional oversight of United States talks with Taliban officials and Afghanistan's comprehensive peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2954. A bill to establish a pilot toll credit marketplace program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2955. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2956. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a public auction of the C-band, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2957. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2958. A bill to provide the Food and Drug Administration with authority to conduct microbial sampling on concentrated animal feeding operations as necessary to facilitate a foodborne illness outbreak investigation, determine the root cause of an outbreak of foodborne illness, or address other public health needs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 436. A resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 437. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 438. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 439. A resolution designating December 1, 2019, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 440. A resolution designating December 14, 2019, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 441. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 442. A resolution designating November 2019 as "National Runaway Prevention Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 443. A resolution recognizing and celebrating on November 30, 2019, the vital role of small businesses and the efforts of the

Small Business Administration to help people in the United States start, build, and grow businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 444. A resolution condemning the VH1 television show *Cartel Crew*; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 193

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to allow veterans to use, possess, or transport medical marijuana and to discuss the use of medical marijuana with a physician of the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized by a State or Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

S. 505

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 505, a bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

S. 702

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals and individuals with disabilities to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors 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. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 976

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the public service loan forgiveness program, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1416

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1416, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1443

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1443, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a non-refundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ten-

nessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the charter of the Gold Star Wives of America to remove the restriction on the federally chartered corporation, and directors and officers of the corporation, attempting to influence legislation.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1921

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1921, a bill to provide that primary care services provided by the National Health Service Corps may include palliative care services.

S. 1992

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1992, a bill to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank of

the United States and to modify the quorum requirement of the Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes.

S. 2383

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2383, a bill to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchises whose franchisees use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2446

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2446, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2469

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2469, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the use of advanced leak detection technology for pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, *supra*.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on indoor tanning services.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2714, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA-E program, and for other purposes.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2754, a bill to create jobs and drive innovation and economic growth in the United States by supporting and promoting the manufacture of next-generation technologies, including refrigerants, solvents, fire suppressants, foam blowing agents, aerosols, and propellants.

S. 2793

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2793, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require coverage without a deductible of certain primary care services by high deductible health plans.

S. 2801

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2801, a bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. 2862

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 2869

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S.J. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 6, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to

halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes.

S. RES. 150

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 150, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

S. RES. 343

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 343, a resolution congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the people of the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the 101st anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 404, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 435, a resolution reaffirming the importance of the General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1249

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1249 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 436

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications of preterm birth are now the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 children die each year due to complications of preterm birth;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem that exacts a toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas many complications of preterm birth may have lifelong consequences for the health, growth, and development of infants;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide can be prevented through proven cost-effective strategies to promote full-term births and improve the care of preterm infants;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to high-quality pre-pregnancy care, prenatal care, childbirth services, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas the preterm birth rate in the United States has worsened for four consecutive years, rising from 9.63 percent in 2015 to 10.02 percent in 2018;

Whereas there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates among many communities in the United States;

Whereas there are disparities in preterm birth rates globally, with lower-income families at the highest risk of having a child preterm;

Whereas many preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs focused on reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, closely spaced pregnancies, and early elective deliveries; and

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, November is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of Prematurity Awareness Month;

(2) honors individuals working domestically and internationally to reduce preterm births; and

(3) supports efforts at home and abroad to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health during and after pregnancy;

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants born preterm; and

(C) promote evidence-based strategies to—

(i) prevent preterm birth and promote full-term births; and

(ii) improve outcomes for infants born preterm.

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is one of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most common type of cancer worldwide;

Whereas, in 2019—

(1) an estimated 27,510 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

(2) an estimated 11,140 people in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 31.5 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2019 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms.

SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas there are far too many unparented children in the United States;

Whereas the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report on fiscal year 2018 foster care and adoption population characteristics (referred to in this preamble as the "AFCARS report") indicates that there are approximately 437,300 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 125,400 of whom are waiting for adoption;

Whereas the AFCARS report indicates that—

(1) 65 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are 10 years of age or younger;

(2) the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 20 months;

(3) in fiscal year 2018, approximately 17,800 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home; and

(4) in fiscal year 2018, the number of children who—

(A) achieved permanency through adoption increased for the fourth year in a row; and

(B) entered foster care decreased for the second year in a row;

Whereas, still, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas a survey conducted in 2017 (referred to in this preamble as the "2017 survey") showed that a quarter of respondents who had not adopted had considered adoption;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that 46 percent of respondents either somewhat or strongly agreed that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, despite the AFCARS report revealing that neglect was associated with 62 percent of cases involving the removal of a child, or approximately 163,500 cases;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that—

(1) 39 percent of respondents believed foster care adoption is expensive; and

(2) a majority of respondents considering foster care adoption indicated that receiving financial and emotional support would make a difference in their decision to pursue adoption;

Whereas the Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services, supports programs, research, and monitoring to help eliminate barriers to adoption and find permanent families for children;

Whereas, every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month;

Whereas National Adoption Day has been celebrated as a collective national effort to find permanent and loving families for children in the foster care system; and

Whereas the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been recognized as National Adoption Day since at least 2000, and, in 2019, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is November 23; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2019, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways should drive in a safe manner so as to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving on the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely during the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year; and

(F) the people of the United States—

(i) to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt; and

(ii) to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2019, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2019, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 440

Whereas, in 1992, the Wreaths Across America project—

(1) began by establishing an annual tradition of donating and transporting Maine bal-

sam fir veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery each December and placing those wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes buried there; and

(2) placed 5,000 donated veterans' wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, during the 28-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 7,882,300 wreaths were sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to "Remember, Honor, Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

(1) Arlington National Cemetery;

(2) veterans cemeteries; and

(3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between the State of Maine and the Commonwealth of Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about—

(A) the service of veterans; and

(B) the sacrifices made by veterans and the their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 1,800,000 veterans' wreaths were delivered to 1,644 locations across the United States and overseas, including more than 9,300 wreaths placed at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, an increase of more than 200 locations compared to the previous year;

Whereas, in December 2019, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

(1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and

(2) other patriotic escort units, including—

(A) motorcycle units;

(B) law enforcement units; and

(C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas, in 2019, the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 1,700 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 15, 2018, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2019, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2019, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed

Forces have made and continue to make for the United States, a great nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 12 MOON LANDING

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 441

Whereas, on May 25, 1961, before a joint session of Congress, President John F. Kennedy—

(1) declared, “Now it is time to take longer strides—time for a great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on Earth.”; and

(2) with his words, set the goal of sending astronauts to the Moon and returning them safely to the Earth;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NASA”) mobilized and established the Apollo space program to meet the goal set by President Kennedy;

Whereas the Apollo space program built on the achievements of the prior space programs of NASA, including the Mercury and Gemini missions;

Whereas the successful Moon landing honored the tragic sacrifice of every astronaut whose life had previously been lost in the service of United States spaceflight research, including—

(1) Roger B. Chaffee, Virgil “Gus” I. Grissom, and Edward H. White II, the astronauts who lost their lives during the preflight test for Apollo 1; and

(2) Theodore C. Freeman, Charles A. Bassett II, Elliot See, Jr., Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., Michael J. Adams, and Clifton C. Williams, Jr.;

Whereas the crew of the Apollo 12 mission consisted of—

(1) Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Mission Commander;

(2) Alan Bean, Lunar Module Pilot; and

(3) Richard F. Gordon, Command Module Pilot;

Whereas the entire Apollo 12 crew consisted of individuals who had served in the Navy;

Whereas the official insignia of the mission was the clipper ship, which increased the use of the seas by the United States, just as the Apollo program increased the use of space-based knowledge and exploration;

Whereas David R. Scott, Alfred M. Worden, and James B. Irwin stood ready to support or stand in for the Apollo 12 crew;

Whereas, on November 14, 1969, the Apollo 12 crew launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center aboard a Saturn V rocket;

Whereas, on November 19, 1969, the Intrepid Lunar Module landed on the surface of the Moon as the second-ever crewed Moon mission of the United States;

Whereas Apollo 12 carried the second Apollo crew to the moon to build on the work of the first crew from Apollo 11;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 conducted an orbital maneuver to land in the Western Hemisphere of the Moon to recover portions

of a previous lander that had been on the surface of the Moon for 2 years to study the effects of extended exposure to the surface of the Moon;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 planted the flag of the United States in lunar soil, and images of the lunar surface indicate that the Apollo 12 flag is still standing;

Whereas the Intrepid carried flags from 136 nations, the United Nations, and the 50 States and the territories of the United States, representing the international coordination and collaboration of space exploration and the scientific intent of the Apollo missions;

Whereas the Apollo 12 crew collected lunar samples and conducted experiments to gain a better understanding of the composition of the Moon and conditions on its surface;

Whereas Apollo 12 deployed the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package, a set of instruments left on the surface of the Moon to gather data;

Whereas the success of the Apollo 12 Moon landing was a result of the skill, dedication, and collective effort of tens of thousands of workers, scientists, engineers, and contractors of the United States;

Whereas the Apollo 12 mission further demonstrated the focus and capability of the scientific community of the United States and cemented the United States as the world leader in space exploration;

Whereas, 50 years later, the Apollo 12 Moon landing continues to inspire national and international scientific efforts in space, medicine, and other fields; and

Whereas the knowledge and experience gained from the Apollo space program continues to inform missions to Mars, the far reaches of the solar system, and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing;

(2) honors the bravery and skill of Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Alan Bean, and Richard F. Gordon, the crew of Apollo 12;

(3) commends the efforts of all of the individuals of the United States who contributed to the achievement of the Apollo 12 Moon landing, exemplifying a cooperative effort on a national scale that continues to inspire scientific progress; and

(4) supports the continued leadership of the United States in the exploration and use of space through human spaceflight.

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH”

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 442

Whereas results from the Voices of Youth Count national survey, as published by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago in “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America”, indicates that an estimated 4,200,000 youth and young adults between 13 and 24 years of age experienced homelessness during a 12-month period ending in 2017, including—

(1) an estimated 700,000 children between 13 and 17 years of age who experienced unaccompanied homelessness; and

(2) an estimated 3,500,000 young adults between 18 and 24 years of age;

Whereas the rates of youth experiencing homelessness are similar in rural and nonrural areas;

Whereas runaway youth often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have experienced abuse and trauma, are involved in the foster care system, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and may be ineligible or unable to access medical or mental health resources;

Whereas individuals without a high school degree or general educational development certificate are nearly 4 times more likely to report homelessness than their peers, making lack of education a leading risk factor for homelessness;

Whereas youth of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) youth experience higher rates of homelessness than their straight and White peers;

Whereas pregnant youth, parents who are 25 years of age or younger, and their children experience higher rates of homelessness than youth and young adults without children;

Whereas runaway and homeless youth are at an increased risk for exploitation and becoming victims of sex and labor trafficking, and between 19 percent and 49 percent of young people who experience homelessness will become victims of trafficking;

Whereas youth who run away from home or from foster care are more likely to be coerced into participating in criminal activity, joining a gang, or using illegal drugs, which lead to a higher likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home or from foster care and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national responsibility;

Whereas the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the value placed on youth and the opportunities provided for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help youth successfully develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in providing safe and stable homes succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses; and

Whereas the National Runaway Safeline and the National Network for Youth are leading the promotion of National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2019—

(1) to raise awareness of the runaway and homeless youth crisis and the issues these young people face; and

(2) to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2019 as “National Runaway Prevention Month”; and

(2) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2019, THE VITAL ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE EFFORTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES START, BUILD, AND GROW BUSINESSES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

S. RES. 443

Whereas, as of September 2019, there are more than 30,700,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) represent 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States;

(2) employ nearly 48 percent of private sector employees in the United States;

(3) constitute almost 2 of every 3 new jobs; and

(4) constitute 97.5 percent of firms that export goods; and

Whereas November 30, 2019, is an appropriate day to recognize small businesses and encourage consumers to support local small businesses during the holiday shopping season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate joins the Small Business Administration in—

(1) celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners in the United States;

(2) recognizing the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary and burdensome regulations and red tape;

(3) supporting and encouraging young entrepreneurs to pursue passions and create more startup businesses;

(4) showing appreciation for the many ways in which small businesses support—

(A) the communities of which small businesses are a part; and

(B) the workers who are employed by small businesses; and

(5) celebrating the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to the United States as the backbone of the economy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 444—CONDEMNING THE VH1 TELEVISION SHOW CARTEL CREW

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 444

Whereas the VH1 television show *Cartel Crew* glorifies drug cartels and individuals who live in luxury as a result of the wealth that drug cartels corruptly amass;

Whereas there is concern that youth across the United States may watch *Cartel Crew* and come to believe that crime is profitable;

Whereas the words and deeds of the cast members of *Cartel Crew* suggest that those cast members have no interest in separating themselves from their illicit pasts;

Whereas the relatives of the cast members of *Cartel Crew* are some of the worst criminals in history;

Whereas the mother of Michael Blanco, Griselda Blanco, is better known as “Cocaine Godmother”, a drug lord in the Medellín Car-

tel who was responsible for nearly 200 murders while transporting cocaine from Colombia to the United States in the 1990s and early 2000s;

Whereas Michael Blanco defended his mother when asked about her crimes, saying that she “didn’t have a choice”, due to the fact that she grew up poor;

Whereas the newest addition to the cast of *Cartel Crew*, Emma Coronel Aispuro (referred to in this preamble as “Aispuro”), is the wife of Joaquín Guzmán Loera (referred to in this preamble as “El Chapo”);

Whereas, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, El Chapo is the single most dangerous individual alive, having created the Sinaloa Cartel and led it on its destructive path of trafficking drugs and individuals for decades;

Whereas, since establishing his crime syndicate in the late 1980s, El Chapo has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of individuals, through both direct violence and the devastating impact of drug addiction;

Whereas, at one point, El Chapo was on the Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas Aispuro—

(1) helped El Chapo escape from a Mexican prison; and

(2) was under investigation in the United States as recently as April 2019; and

Whereas Aispuro clearly intends to profit from the notoriety her cartel connections afford her, as she is developing a clothing line called “El Chapo Guzman”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges VH1—

(1) to cancel *Cartel Crew*;

(2) to reconsider its standards when developing television shows so that victims of cartel bloodshed and destruction are not further harmed; and

(3) to be a better steward of public media by refusing to spread the erroneous message that crime is profitable.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1251. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1430, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

SA 1252. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

SA 1253. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1251. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1430, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees; as follows:

On page 2, line 11, strike “appointed” and insert “designated”.

On page 2, line 23, strike “appointed” and insert “designated”.

SA 1252. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

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

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestic or foreign;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, whether domestic or foreign, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the

Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(o) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.”.

SA 1253. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Interagency Coordination Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “covered agency” means—

(A) the Federal Communications Commission;

(B) the Department of Agriculture; and

(C) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; and

(2) the term “high-cost programs” means—

(A) the programs for Universal Service Support for High-Cost Areas set forth under subpart D of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(B) the Remote Areas Fund set forth under subpart J of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(C) the Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism for Rate-of-Return Carriers set forth under subpart K of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(D) the Mobility Fund set forth under subpart L of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

(E) the High Cost Loop Support for Rate-of-Return Carriers program set forth under subpart M of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(b) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads of the covered agencies shall enter into an interagency agreement requiring coordination between the covered agencies for the distribution of funds for broadband deployment under—

(1) the high-cost programs;

(2) the programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service of the Department of Agriculture; and

(3) the programs administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In entering into an interagency agreement with respect to the programs described in subsection (b), the heads of the covered agencies shall—

(1) require that the covered agencies share information with each other about existing or planned projects that have received or will receive funds under the programs described in subsection (b) for new broadband deployment;

(2) provide that—

(A) subject to subparagraph (B), upon request from another covered agency with authority to award or authorize any funds for new broadband deployment in a project area, a covered agency shall provide the other covered agency with any information the covered agency possesses regarding, with respect to the project area—

(i) each entity that provides broadband service in the area;

(ii) levels of broadband service provided in the area, including the speed of broadband service and the technology provided;

(iii) the geographic scope of broadband service coverage in the area; and

(iv) each entity that has received or will receive funds under the programs described in subsection (b) to provide broadband service in the area; and

(B) if a covered agency designates any information provided to another covered agency under subparagraph (A) as confidential, the other covered agency shall protect the confidentiality of that information;

(3) designate the Federal Communications Commission as the entity primarily responsible for—

(A) coordinating among the covered agencies; and

(B) storing or maintaining access to all broadband deployment data;

(4) consider basing the distribution of funds for broadband deployment under the programs described in subsection (b) on standardized data regarding broadband coverage; and

(5) provide that the interagency agreement shall be updated periodically, except that the scope of the agreement with respect to the Federal Communications Commission may not expand beyond the high-cost programs.

(d) ASSESSMENT OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 1 year after entering into the interagency agreement required under subsection (b), the Federal Communications Commission shall seek public comment on—

(A) the effectiveness of the interagency agreement in facilitating efficient use of funds for broadband deployment;

(B) the availability of Tribal, State, and local data regarding broadband deployment and the inclusion of that data in interagency coordination; and

(C) modifications to the interagency agreement that would improve the efficacy of interagency coordination.

(2) ASSESSMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall—

(A) review and assess the comments received under paragraph (1); and

(B) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report detailing any findings and recommendations from the assessment conducted under subparagraph (A).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 3 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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 10 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 Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Bernard Maurice Jones II, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Thomas Michael O’Connor, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, and Ralph Ignatius Sozio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York, both of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Stahley and Jordan Kahn, two legislative fellows of my staff, are granted privileges of the floor for the 116th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to retired Army CPT Jonathan Ng, a Department of Defense fellow serving in my office, for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elizabeth Ahkivgak, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 437, S. Res. 438, S. Res. 439, S. Res. 440, and S. Res. 441.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, that the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 437, S. Res. 438, S. Res. 439, S. Res. 440, and S. Res. 441) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4566

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives H.R. 4566 and the text is identical to the text of S. 2592, as introduced, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4566; that the bill be considered read a third time; and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill; finally, if passed, that the motion 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.

CHARGING HELPS AGENCIES REALIZE GENERAL EFFICIENCIES ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 199, S. 2193.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2193) to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 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. 2193

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 "Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act" or the "CHARGE Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY CHARGE CARD FOR CHARGING FEDERAL ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services;

(2) the term "charge card"—

[(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other credit device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit; and]

(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other means existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services; and

(B) includes—

(i) a card issued under the GSA SmartPay program; and

(ii) a Fleet Services card;

(3) the term "covered electric motor vehicle" means a passenger carrier that is—

(A) a passenger motor vehicle; and

(B) an electric motor vehicle;

(4) the term "electric motor vehicle" has the meaning given the term in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271);

(5) the term "electric motor vehicle charging station" means a battery-charging station that permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric motor vehicle; and

(6) the terms "Federal agency" and "passenger carrier" have the meanings given those terms in section 1344(h) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that each Federal agency may, in accordance with section 1344 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) charge a covered electric motor vehicle at a commercial electric motor vehicle charging station; and

(2) pay for a transaction described in paragraph (1) with a charge card.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CHARGE CARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue to each Federal agency a charge card for each covered electric motor vehicle of the Federal agency that may be used by an officer or employee of the Federal agency to [charge] pay for charging the covered motor vehicle in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

Mrs. FISCHER. 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. 2193), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2193

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 "Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act" or the "CHARGE Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY CHARGE CARD FOR CHARGING FEDERAL ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services;

(2) the term "charge card"—

(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other means existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services; and

(B) includes—

(i) a card issued under the GSA SmartPay program; and

(ii) a Fleet Services card;

(3) the term "covered electric motor vehicle" means a passenger carrier that is—

(A) a passenger motor vehicle; and

(B) an electric motor vehicle;

(4) the term "electric motor vehicle" has the meaning given the term in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271);

(5) the term "electric motor vehicle charging station" means a battery-charging station that permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric motor vehicle; and

(6) the terms "Federal agency" and "passenger carrier" have the meanings given those terms in section 1344(h) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that each Federal agency may, in accordance with section 1344 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) charge a covered electric motor vehicle at a commercial electric motor vehicle charging station; and

(2) pay for a transaction described in paragraph (1) with a charge card.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CHARGE CARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue to each Federal agency a charge card for each covered electric motor vehicle of the Federal agency that may be used by an officer or employee of the Federal agency to pay for charging the covered motor vehicle in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 148, S. 1430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1430) to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 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. 1430

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 “Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8331 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (31), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (32), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(33) ‘representative payee’ means a person (including an organization) appointed under section 8345(e)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability.”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8401 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (37), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (38), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(39) ‘representative payee’ means a person (including an organization) appointed under section 8466(c)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability.”.

(b) EMBEZZLEMENT OR CONVERSION.—

(1) CSRS.—Subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8345 the following:

“§ 8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

“(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly revoke payments to the representative payee.”

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

“(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

“(B) certify payment—

“(i) to another representative payee; or

“(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”. [more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—Any willful neglect or refusal by a representative payee to make and file proper accountings or reports concerning the amounts received from payments authorized under section 8345(e) as required by law shall be taken to be sufficient evidence prima facie of the embezzlement or conversion of such amounts.”.]

(2) FERS.—Subchapter VI of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8466 the following:

“§ 8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

“(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly revoke payments to the representative payee.”

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

“(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

“(B) certify payment—

“(i) to another representative payee; or

“(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”. [more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—Any willful neglect or refusal by a representative payee to make and file proper accountings or reports concerning the amounts received from payments authorized under section 8466(c) as required by law shall be taken to be sufficient evidence prima facie of the embezzlement or conversion of such amounts.”.]

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The table of sections for chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8345 the following:

“8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments.”.

(B) The table of sections for chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8466 the following:

“8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments.”.

(c) DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT PENDING APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(e)”;

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting “(including an organization)” after “person”;

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting “(including an organization)” after “any person”; and

(ii) by inserting “and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant” after “claimant” the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee

is made. *The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due.*”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8466(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting “(including an organization)” after “person”;

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting “(including an organization)” after “any person”; and

(ii) by inserting “and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant” after “claimant” the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. *The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due.*”.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (e) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

“(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

“(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, [and] 1383a); or

“(3) section 6101 of title 38.”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8466 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (c) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

“(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

“(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, [and] 1383a); or

“(3) section 6101 of title 38.”.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

[(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Amounts in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund may be used by the Office of Personnel Management, without further appropriation, for the cost of activities of the Office relating to preventing fraud by representative payees (as defined in section 8331 and 8401 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this Act).]

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Section 8348(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “in administering fraud prevention under sections 8345, 8345a, 8466, and 8466a of this title,” after “8465(b) of this title.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management—

(1) shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by [this Act] section 2; and

(2) may promulgate additional regulations relating to the administration of the representative payee program.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by [this Act] section 2—

(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply on and after the effective date of the regulations promulgated under section 3(b)(1).

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed

to; that the Lankford amendment at the desk be agreed to; and 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 amendment (No. 1251) is as follows:

(Purpose: To make certain corrections)

On page 2, line 11, strike "appointed" and insert "designated".

On page 2, line 23, strike "appointed" and insert "designated".

The bill (S. 1430), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1430

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 "Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8331 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (31), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (32), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(33) 'representative payee' means a person (including an organization) designated under section 8345(e)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability."

(2) FERS.—Section 8401 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (37), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (38), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(39) 'representative payee' means a person (including an organization) designated under section 8466(c)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability."

(b) EMBEZZLEMENT OR CONVERSION.—

(1) CSRS.—Subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8345 the following:

"§ 8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

"(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

"(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

"(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

"(B) certify payment—

"(i) to another representative payee; or

"(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

"(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(2) FERS.—Subchapter VI of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8466 the following:

"§ 8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

"(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

"(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

"(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

"(B) certify payment—

"(i) to another representative payee; or

"(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

"(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The table of sections for chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8345 the following:

"8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments."

(B) The table of sections for chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8466 the following:

"8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments."

(c) DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT PENDING APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(e)";

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting "(including an organization)" after "person";

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting "(including an organization)" after "any person"; and

(ii) by inserting "and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant" after "claimant" the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due."

(2) FERS.—Section 8466(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)";

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting "(including an organization)" after "person";

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting "(including an organization)" after "any person"; and

(ii) by inserting "and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant" after "claimant" the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend

direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due."

(d) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (e) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

"(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

"(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, 1383a); or

"(3) section 6101 of title 38."

(2) FERS.—Section 8466 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (c) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

"(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

"(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, 1383a); or

"(3) section 6101 of title 38."

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Section 8348(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "in administering fraud prevention under sections 8345, 8345a, 8466, and 8466a of this title," after "8465(b) of this title."

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management—

(1) shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by section 2; and

(2) may promulgate additional regulations relating to the administration of the representative payee program.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2—

(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply on and after the effective date of the regulations promulgated under section 3(b)(1).

DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA, AS THE TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 900 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 900) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the "Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 900) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 900

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 300 North Willson Avenue, Bozeman, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Travis W. Atkins VA Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

DESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN ODESSA, TEXAS, AS THE WILSON AND YOUNG MEDAL OF HONOR VA CLINIC

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2334 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2334) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the “Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 2334) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following calendar bills en bloc: Calendar Nos. 247 and 293 through 303.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and the motions

to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN ROBERT C. HARMON AND PRIVATE JOHN R. PEIRSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 2712) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building,” was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

(The bill is printed in the Record of Monday, December 2, 2019)

JERRY C. WASHBURN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 887) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MARILYN MONROE POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1252) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RITCHIE VALENS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1253) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EVA G. HEWITT POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1526) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the “Eva G. Hewitt Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL ALEX MARTINEZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1844) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the “Corporal Alex

Martinez Memorial Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JEANNETTE RANKIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1972) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SHANNON M. KENT POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2151) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 2325) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JOSE RAMOS POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3144) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the “Jose Ramos Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LAKE HAVASU CITY COMBAT VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3314) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 36, S. 333.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 333) to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 333) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 333

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 Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “consortium” means a group primarily composed of nonprofit entities, including academic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training in support of homeland security;

(2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “incident” have the meanings given those terms in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

(3) the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary may work with a consortium to assist the national cybersecurity and communications integration center of the Department (established under section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659)) to—

(1) provide training to State and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with applicable law;

(2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing existing programs and models in accordance with such section 2209, for State and local first responders and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

(3) provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness for and response to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of

terrorism and acts of terrorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

(4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training and simulation exercises for entities, including State and local governments, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and private industry, to encourage community-wide coordination in defending against and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

(5) help States and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs, in accordance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination of homeland security information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents; and

(6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and incident prevention and response into existing State and local emergency plans, including continuity of operations plans.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecurity training and exercises for State and local entities.

(2) Geographic diversity of the members of any such consortium so as to cover different regions throughout the United States.

(d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consortium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consortium under this Act.

(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to universities and colleges, including historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement agency.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 194, S. 1846.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1846) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldfaced brackets.)

S. 1846

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 “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

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

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestically or foreign owned, that has the legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right in a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States, and to be held responsible for its actions;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat

indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(o) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.

“(p) PILOT DEPLOYMENT OF SENSORS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to deploy network sensors capable of utilizing classified indicators for the purpose of identifying and filtering malicious network traffic.

“(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Activities related to the pilot program established under this subsection may only be carried out on a voluntary basis in coordination with the owner of the impacted network.

“(3) EXPANSION AUTHORITY.—If, after 12 months of deployment, the Secretary determines that the network sensors deployed pursuant to this subsection would provide network security benefits to other critical infrastructure sectors, the Secretary may make additional network sensors available to those sectors on a voluntary basis at the

request of critical infrastructure owners and operators.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

“(A) the status of the pilot program;

“(B) the rate of voluntary participation in the pilot program;

“(C) the effectiveness of the pilot program in detecting and blocking traffic that could not have been captured without the network sensors deployed under the pilot program; and

“(D) recommendations for expanding the use of classified threat indicators to protect United States critical infrastructure.”

“(p) DEPLOYMENT OF ENHANCED CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary may establish an initiative to enhance efforts to deploy technical or analytic capabilities or services that utilize classified cyber threat indicators or intelligence for the purpose of detecting or preventing malicious network traffic on unclassified non-Federal information systems.

“(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Activities conducted under this subsection may only be carried out on a voluntary basis upon request of the non-Federal entity.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the initiative under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the initiative, which shall include—

“(A) the status of the initiative;

“(B) the rate of voluntary participation in the initiative;

“(C) the effectiveness of the initiative; and

“(D) recommendations for expanding the use of classified cyber threat indicators to protect non-Federal entities.”

Mrs. FISCHER. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1252) in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

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

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestic or foreign;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, whether domestic or foreign, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and

procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(o) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.”.

The bill (S. 1846), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENERAL SECURITY OF MILITARY INFORMATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JAPAN

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 435.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) reaffirming the importance of the General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 435) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 510 through 517 and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Foreign Service, and Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick R. Michaelis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen Daniel L. Karbler

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephanie A. Purgerson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Leslie A. Beavers
Col. Robert M. Blake
Col. Melissa A. Coburn
Col. Vanessa J. Dornhoefer
Col. Lynnette J. Hebert
Col. Jeffrey F. Hill
Col. Traci L. KuekerMurphy
Col. Preston F. McFarren
Col. William D. Murphy
Col. Dana N. Nelson
Col. Robert P. Palmer
Col. David A. Piffarero
Col. Mitchell D. Richardson
Col. William A. Rock
Col. Mark V. Slominski
Col. Max J. Stitzer
Col. Robert W. VanHoy, II
Col. Adrian K. White

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Lee Ann T. Bennett
Brig. Gen. Jay S. Goldstein
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey S. Hinrichs
Brig. Gen. Bret C. Larson
Brig. Gen. Bryan P. Radloff
Brig. Gen. Scott A. Sauter

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Darrin D. Lambrigger

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John C. Boyd

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Damon N. Cluck

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1115 AIR FORCE nominations
(10) beginning JEFFREY J. AUTREY, and ending JENNIFER T. VECCHIONE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1269 AIR FORCE nominations
(127) beginning THOMAS JASON ABELL, and ending LAWRENCE NAHNO YAZZIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1270 AIR FORCE nomination of Joshua B. Stierwalt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN1205 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Torre, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1206 ARMY nomination of Austin C. Vann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1257 ARMY nomination of Michael J. Blanton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1258 ARMY nomination of Laina G. Cafego, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1259 ARMY nomination of Lyle E. Bushong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1261 ARMY nomination of Garth E. Coke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1264 ARMY nomination of Brent R. Robertson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1271 ARMY nomination of Gerald J. Hall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1272 ARMY nomination of Nicole L. Kruse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE COAST GUARD

* PN1226 COAST GUARD nominations (5) beginning JOSEPH D. BROWN, and ending MARIETT C. OGG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN606—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (15) beginning Derrick Scott Brown, and ending V. Kate Somvongsiri, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2019.

PN788—2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Jay P. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1274 MARINE CORPS nomination of Emma R. Shinn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1275 MARINE CORPS nomination of Ryan J. Nowlin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

PN1265 NAVY nomination of John N. Amiral, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1273 NAVY nomination of Thomas Q. Gallagher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 485, 537, and 539.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Robert Anthony Dixon, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of four years; Thomas Michael O'Connor, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years; and Ralph Ignatius Sozio, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations, en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dixon, O'Connor, and Sozio nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 420.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statement relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Simermeyer nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 482, 483, and 484.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Joshua A. Deahl, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years; Deborah J. Israel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations, en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Deahl, Israel, and Hertzfeld nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 129.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lowry nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 456, 493, and 495.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of John E. Kramer, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation; Ian Paul Steff, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service; and Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2024.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc, with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kramer, Steff, and Bentzel nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. 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.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 22, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 26, at 7 a.m.; Friday, November 29, at 9:30 a.m. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 29, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 2, and that following the 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 Brouillette nomination, with the postcloture time on the nomination expiring at 5:30 p.m.; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen following disposition of the Brouillette nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

JASON MYUNG-LK CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK,

WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE SWATI A. DANDEKAR.

THE JUDICIARY

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE EDWARD E. CARNES, RETIRING.

JOHN W. HOLCOMB, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE DEAN D. FERGUSON, RETIRED.

KNUT SVENBJORN JOHNSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE JOHN A. HOUSTON, RETIRED.

STEVE KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL, DECEASED.

JOSHUA M. KINDRED, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA, VICE RALPH R. BEISTLINE, RETIRED.

MICHELLE M. PETTIT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE MICHAEL M. ANELLO, RETIRED.

TODD WALLACE ROBINSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE MARILYN L. HUFF, RETIRED.

JENNIFER P. TOGLIATTI, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE JAMES C. MAHAN, RETIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ALAN TURLEY, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

HEATHER BYRNES, OF ALASKA

BRENT OMDAHL, OF GEORGIA

SCOTT POZIL, OF WASHINGTON

ERIC WOLFF, OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SCOTT L. ANDERSON, OF TEXAS

CAREYLOU S. ARUN, OF MARYLAND

JEFFREY P. CADY, OF FLORIDA

SANTIAGO DAVILA, OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT D. GAINES, OF ARIZON

BRYAN J. GOLDFINGER, OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN G. HABERSTOCK, OF NEW JERSEY

FREDERICK J. HELFRICH, OF PENNSYLVANIA

MELISSA A. HILL, OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL IMBROGNA, OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANTONIOS LOULOUAKIS, OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL A. MARANGELLI, OF CALIFORNIA

HEATHER S. MCLEOD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KOLBJORN T. NELSON, OF MINNESOTA

SEPH OPPENHEIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RICHARD A. PEARSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS

CRAIG R. PHILDIUS, OF FLORIDA

DANIEL T. PINT, OF NEW YORK

IRWIN H. ROBERTS, OF NORTH CAROLINA

ADAM S. ROTH, OF NEW JERSEY

JENNIFER A. SHORE, OF FLORIDA

LEANN C. TAGWERKER, OF FLORIDA

WILLIAM J. TOERPE, OF ALABAMA

STEPHEN WILCOX, OF PENNSYLVANIA

CHRISTOPHER W. WILKEN, OF WEST VIRGINIA

DUNCAN F. WILSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CHRISTOPHER JB. WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CONRAD WP. WONG, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

MICHAEL LALLY, OF VIRGINIA

DALE TASHARSKI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

GUNTER E. SCHWABE, OF NORTH CAROLINA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 21, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

E. SEQUOYAH SIMERMAYER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOHN E. KRAMER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSHUA A. DEAHL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ANDREA L. HERTZFELD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT ANTHONY DIXON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

IAN PAUL STEFF, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

CARL WHITNEY BENTZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATRICK R. MICHAELIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL L. KARBLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHANIE A. PURGERSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. LESLIE A. BEAVERS

COL. ROBERT M. BLAKE

COL. MELISSA A. COBURN

COL. VANESSA J. DORNHOEFER

COL. LYNNETTE J. HEBERT

COL. JEFFREY F. HILL

COL. TRACI L. KUEKERMURPHY

COL. PRESTON P. MCFARREN

COL. WILLIAM D. MURPHY

COL. DANA N. NELSON

COL. ROBERT P. PALMER

COL. DAVID A. PIFARERIO

COL. MITCHELL D. RICHARDSON

COL. WILLIAM A. ROCK

COL. MARK V. SLOMINSKI

COL. MAX J. STITZER

COL. ROBERT W. VANHOY II

COL. ADRIAN K. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEE ANN T. BENNETT

BRIG. GEN. JAY S. GOLDSTEIN

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY S. HINRICH

BRIG. GEN. BRET C. LARSON

BRIG. GEN. BRYAN P. RADLIFF

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT A. SAUTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DARRIN D. LAMBRIGGER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. BOYD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAMON N. CLUCK

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THOMAS MICHAEL O'CONNOR, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RALPH IGNATIUS SOZIO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY J. AUTREY AND ENDING WITH JENNIFER T. VECCHIONE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS JASON ABELL AND ENDING WITH LAWRENCE NAHNO YAZZIE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSHUA B. STIERWALT, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. TORRE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AUSTIN C. VANN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. BLANTON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LAINA G. CAPEGO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LYLE E. BUSHONG, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GARTH E. COKE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENT R. ROBERTSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GERALD J. HALL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICOLE L. KRUSE, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF EMMA R. SHINN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RYAN J. NOWLIN, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN N. AMIRAL, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS Q. GALLAGHER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH D. BROWN AND ENDING WITH MARIETT C. OGG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DERRICK SCOTT BROWN AND ENDING WITH V. KATE SOMVONGSIRI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF JAY P. WILLIAMS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STAN JONES, TULALIP TRIBES LEADER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Stan Jones, Sr., Scho-Hallen, a former leader of Washington state's Tulalip Tribes who passed away this month at the age of 93.

Like many Native households during the 1930s, Stan grew up poor, often without access to running water or electricity. But Stan persevered, and made the brave decision to join the U.S. Marines Corps when he was 17-years-old. He served during World War II in the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division in the Pacific. He was sent to Nagasaki, Japan not long after the Atomic bomb was dropped on the city.

Upon returning home, Stan began his life's work improving the lives of his people. He served on the Tulalip Board of Directors for 44 years, including 26 years as Chairman.

Stan travelled across the country and the world representing Tulalip, teaching people about the rich history and culture of his tribe. During his time on the Board, Stan met with legislators, presidents, and foreign leaders to advocate on behalf of his people. His work helped his community to thrive and the tribal payroll grew from three to today's 3,500 employees during his tenure.

As his daughter Teri said, "Dad lived and breathed Tulalip." Stan was a pillar of the Tulalip community. His dedication and commitment to his people will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 550TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GURU NANAK

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev and the contributions of Sikh Americans to the United States.

November 12, 2019, marked the 550th birth anniversary of the Founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev, and is celebrated worldwide as Guru Nanak's Gurburab.

Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with around 30 million followers, one million of whom are in the United States. Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions, including service in the U.S. Armed Forces, agriculture, real estate, transportation, technology, small business, and medicine. In their efforts, Sikh Americans have made rich contributions to the economic, cultural, and social landscape of the United States and have strengthened our communities by fostering respect among all people through faith and service.

As a member of Congress, I remain committed to educating citizens about the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in the principles of the First Amendment, and a culture of mutual understanding and respect. We are a stronger nation and community when we embrace our diversity and afford all citizens the opportunity to better understand our many faiths and cultures.

Accordingly, this month let us recognize and appreciate the rich history and culture of Sikhs as they celebrate Gurburab.

CLOSING THE HOMEWORK GAP THROUGH MOBILE HOTSPOTS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, an estimated 12 million school-aged children lack broadband at home. 12 million students—this is a startling number. Before the internet became ubiquitous, students completed their homework with pencil and paper. This is no longer the case. Today, many students have homework that requires internet for research or to ask their teachers questions. If a student does not have that, they must find a venue that provides free Wi-Fi, like libraries, cafes, or other public venues.

Unfortunately, some of these locations are not conducive to a study environment. They may be noisy or have time restrictions on internet use at a computer kiosk. Furthermore, students, then must find transportation to and from such establishments, creating additional barriers to education for the students and their families. This is a modern-day travesty that must end.

That is why I am introducing the "Closing the Homework Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act"—a bill that would create a \$100 million grant program for libraries, schools, the territories, and federally recognized Indian Tribes to build and sustain mobile hotspot programs to close the "homework gap."

Many schools and libraries have already created mobile hotspot programs to help students who do not have broadband at home. Essentially, students can "check-out" or borrow these mobile hotspots from their schools or local libraries for a set period of time. Funds for such programs, however, may lapse after a few years or when funding is eliminated. My bill will ensure this does not happen and our students have internet to complete their assignments.

Madam Speaker, the Closing the Homework Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act is a critical bill that will help close the digital divide and address the homework gap. Every child deserves their best chance at pursuing education. For the sake of our children, I urge all my colleagues to support this timely, and necessary bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, as the only Greek woman in Congress, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope. This distinguished organization was founded on November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, with the mission of improving the well-being of Greek women and providing them with opportunities to make significant contributions to American society.

Over the past 90 years, Daughters of Penelope has grown into a leading international organization of women of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes, recognized and respected worldwide for its scholarship programs and public advocacy.

I commend this organization for promoting the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, good citizenship, and family and individual excellence. Their incredible work is seen in efforts to combat domestic violence in the United States and Greece, sponsorship of affordable and dignified housing for seniors, financial support for medical research and communities affected by natural disasters, contributions to Meals on Wheels, and support for the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at World Trade Center.

I am proud to work with them on these important issues and look forward to continuing our partnership to empower the next generation of female Hellenic leaders.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 737

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to make clear my opposition to H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

Yesterday, when the House considered this deeply flawed legislation I spoke in opposition—to express my concerns about the devastating impacts the legislation will have on shark conservation efforts and responsible American fishermen. Many of these fishermen come from my own district in Florida and have made many sacrifices to rebuild and sustain our shark populations.

I am grateful to many of my colleagues who joined me in opposition to this measure after listening to my concerns. Regrettably, when the electronic vote was taken, I was recorded incorrectly. I want to make clear that I oppose this legislation and intended to vote NO.

• 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.

IN HONOR OF DR. DIETER MARTIN
GRUEN

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Dr. Dieter Martin Gruen's 97th birthday, in support of his nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On November 4th, my colleagues, Representative BILL FOSTER and Representative CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, joined me in supporting Dr. Gruen's nomination for the highest civilian award in this country. Dr. Gruen has dedicated his life to science and made monumental contributions to shaping the United States as a leader and world power in technology, innovation, and national defense.

For nearly eight decades, Dr. Gruen has worked to enhance American technology development as a former Manhattan Project Scientist and Argonne National Laboratory Distinguished Fellow. Born in 1922, Dr. Gruen is an internationally esteemed German-American chemist, inventor, and innovator who immigrated to the U.S. from Nazi Germany in 1936. Throughout his career, Dr. Gruen has been driven by his curiosity and commitment to science—allowing him to make critical contributions to nuclear fission and fusion, solar energy, energy storage, and conservation. Specifically, Dr. Gruen has made several key technological advancements such as the nuclear submarine reactor cooling design and purification of uranium used to end World War II in the Pacific theater.

Through this work and countless other selfless endeavors, Dr. Gruen has been recognized by the international scientific community with numerous awards—including from Argonne National Laboratory, Northwestern University, and the Patent Law Association of Chicago—for his pioneering research in chemistry, physics, along with the emerging fields of materials and nanoscience.

I had the great pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Gruen earlier this year at his home in Downers Grove. What was intended to be a thirty-minute meeting became a two-hour conversation where I heard countless stories about Dr. Gruen's work on the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the nuts and bolts of nuclear fission technology, and his unique journey to the United States. At 97, Dr. Gruen still sees the world as a place of vast opportunities for technological innovation. His optimism has been a source of inspiration and encouragement in my work as a Member of Congress as we tackle critical issues facing our society.

Dr. Gruen has continued his lifelong commitment to science by actively funding the building and demonstration of his novel solar cell technology in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago. For the reasons mentioned here and many more, I sincerely believe that Dr. Dieter Gruen should be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his lifelong contributions to science and technology that continue today. Dr. Gruen's tireless efforts to solve future energy challenges have seldom been exhibited by an individual. Humble and unpretentious, Dr. Gruen has been and remains the embodiment of a dedicated American and pure scientist.

I congratulate Dr. Gruen for his decades of accomplishments and exceptional contributions to science and the national security interests of the United States. I cannot think of a more deserving citizen for this award, and today I wish him the happiest of birthdays.

**RECOGNIZING MARGIE WAKEHAM
FOR THIRTY YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY**

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Margie Wakeham for her 30 years of public service to the Orange County community. As the CEO of Families Forward for 26 years, Ms. Wakeham has led the fight for families in need to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through wraparound services that include career counseling, housing, and an onsite food pantry, among other vital programs.

As a young woman, Ms. Wakeham served as a group counselor to incarcerated youth, and later, an investigator for the juvenile court systems in San Diego and Orange Counties. Ever the trailblazer, Ms. Wakeham was an active mother who continued to be involved with local service organizations while raising her children. It was as a mother that she realized the profound need for school improvements, which inspired her candidacy and nearly two decades of service as an Irvine Unified School Board Member. As a champion for Irvine schools, Ms. Wakeham was moved to action when she learned of the serious struggles by families in her community due to food and housing insecurities. Through first-hand insight into the heartbreaking stories of children growing up alongside her own children, Ms. Wakeham knew action was needed.

In the early 1990s, Wakeham served as a board member of the previously titled organization, Irvine Temporary Housing, which had been helping shelter families since 1984. In 1993, Ms. Wakeham joined a team of distinguished leaders throughout the City of Irvine to save the nonprofit from closing its doors. Ms. Wakeham transformed the newly minted Families Forward into a major success, housing thousands of families in our community and scoring top ratings from nonprofit watchdogs for fiscal management. In many ways, the renaming of Families Forward resembles a tectonic shift in service delivery for Orange County. Over the last three years, an astounding 95 percent of the families served by Families Forward did not reappear in the homeless services provider system. This stands as a testament to its steady leadership under Ms. Wakeham.

When we end homelessness in Orange County, it will be because of the hard work and foundation-laying of community advocates like Ms. Wakeham. Today, we celebrate not only her success as a leader, but also the bright future Families Forward to the community. I am proud to recognize Ms. Margie Wakeham for her commitment to serving the 45th Congressional District of California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, November 15, 2019 I am not recorded on final passage of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019. I was engaged in a conversation with a constituent from the state of Washington discussing the issue of homelessness and mistimed the vote for final passage although I was present.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank is critical to the Washington state economy and its workers, and I support its reauthorization. If I had been present on final passage, I would have voted: yes, on Roll Call 624.

**HONORING KANSAS CITY BOARD
OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of clean water and the dedication of the members of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to their role in serving our communities. Access to clean water has become a major national concern. With the increased awareness of how environmental changes affect our water supply, as seen in towns like Flint, Michigan, it becomes increasingly important that we value our water and ensure it's safe for the public. In that spirit, today we celebrate a department that has demonstrated commitment to serving their community.

The Kansas City BPU has received the "10-Year Directors Award" from the Partnership for Safe Water; a program developed by EPA, AWWA, and associated Partner organizations to guide water suppliers towards improving water quality by optimizing system operations. The Partnership is a voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment plants and distribution system operations. More than 300 utility subscribers, collectively serving more than 100 million people, are committed to the Partnership's goals of providing safe, high quality drinking water through achieving operational excellence in water treatment. Partnership members participate in a rigorous four-phase self-assessment and peer review process, developed by water utility optimization experts, and are recognized for their commitment to deliver safe water to their communities.

The BPU plant was one of a select group of utilities honored by the Partnership at the annual conference of the American Water Works Association, the largest and oldest worldwide organization dedicated to safe water. I am honored to recognize William Johnson, BPU General Manager, as well as staff as they celebrate this outstanding award.

HONORING MICHAEL CARRIGAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Carrigan on the occasion of his retirement as the president of the Illinois American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). I have appreciated Michael's leadership of the Illinois AFL-CIO and his vision and hard work towards improving the quality of life for workers in Illinois and across the region and country.

Mike Carrigan served for 12 years as president and 7 years as secretary-treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO. During his 19-year tenure, he worked on many successful initiatives that have helped the Illinois workforce and families, including gradually raising Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 an hour, a \$45 billion infrastructure program, the legalization of cannabis and many legislative initiatives and programs that improve the lives of Illinois residents.

Mike serves on the national AFL-CIO State Federation and Central Labor Council Advisory Committee and was the chairman of the 12-state AFL-CIO Midwest Labor Federation Council. In Illinois he serves on the Workers' Compensation Advisory Board and the Illinois Prevailing Wage Council.

Prior to his work with the Illinois AFL-CIO, Mike was elected to the Decatur City Council in 1995 and served nearly four terms before being appointed Mayor of Decatur in 2008. He was business manager/financial secretary for IBEW Local 146 in Decatur from 1992 to 2000; he was a journeyman wireman in Decatur from 1978 to 1990 and became business manager of the local.

Mike Carrigan is a fierce champion of the labor movement and a fighter for worker's rights and his leadership will be remembered and missed. On a personal note, I have appreciated his advice and counsel, his friendship and support and his steady leadership on behalf of Illinois workers and their families. Congratulations to Mike on his retirement, and I thank him for his years of service.

HONORING THE HOMESTEAD GRAYS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Homestead Grays, a baseball team deeply rooted in the District of Columbia, for its legendary success in the National Negro League.

In light of the Major League Baseball World Series championship won by the Washington Nationals this year, we must also remember a team that shaped the game of baseball and brought World Series glory to the District long before the Nationals, the Homestead Grays. In 1948, the Grays won their third National Negro League World Series title against the Birmingham Black Barons to become one of Washington's most successful baseball teams.

The Homestead Grays came to D.C. in 1940, when Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators, saw a lucrative opportunity for the Grays to use Griffith Stadium while the Senators played away games. By 1943, the Grays, originally from Pittsburg, played over half their games in the nation's capital. Griffith Stadium, located in the heart of D.C.'s African American community and close to Howard University, became a hub for Black baseball.

The Grays played at a time when the face of baseball was changing in America. As the National Negro League continued to demonstrate excellence in baseball, the sport began to integrate. It became too impossible for white teams to ignore African-American players. This led to the folding of the National Negro League in 1948 but to the rise of many African-American Major League Baseball players like Jackie Robinson.

Found on the Ring of Honor in Nationals Park, the team's stadium, are several names of Homestead Grays' most iconic players, including Cool Papa Bell, Ray Brown, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Cumberland Posey and Jud Wilson. These men led the Grays to three National Negro League World Series and 10 National Negro League pennants.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Homestead Grays for their enduring place in Washington and U.S. baseball history.

OCTOBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's October Veteran of the Month, Senior Airman Kelli Ingraham.

A Public Health Journeyman in the United States Air Force, Senior Airman Ingraham honorably served our nation for four years. Upon returning home from service, Senior Airman Ingraham followed her passion for service and has dedicated her life to serving her fellow veterans.

As a Veterans Services Representative with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), Senior Airman Ingraham works with our nation's veterans to help them in navigating the federal bureaucracy. Assisting veterans with claims for service-related disabilities, education opportunities, advance medical compensation, as well as employment and housing placement, Ingraham's work with the ODVA is truly admirable. Her devotion to ensuring that our nation's heroes receive the benefits they deserve is honorable and she sets an example we should all strive to follow.

In addition to working as a Veterans Services Representative for ODVA, Ingraham is involved with the Tulsa Vet Center, the Tulsa Stand Down for Homeless Veterans committee, and the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization. Senior Airman Ingraham lives a life of unmatched dedication, sacrifice, and service to our great nation. She answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. She continues to serve our country, community, and her fellow

veterans at a high level on a daily basis. It is my honor to recognize Senior Airman Kelli Ingraham as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's October Veteran of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SHELLY LUTZ ON RECEIPT OF THE VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Shelly Lutz of Lake Harmony on being named the recipient of the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development's Volunteer & Community Impact Award.

Shelly is both the owner and director of golf at the Split Rock Golf Club in Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania. Shelly oversees the operations of a beautiful 27-hole golf course and restaurant. Of her many honors and accolades, Shelly is perhaps best known for her annual "Let's Save the Dogs" golf tournament, which raises much needed funds for the NEPA Pet Fund & Rescue, the Carbon County Animal Shelter and the Red Rock Rescue of Northeast Pennsylvania. I applaud her hard work, business savvy, and dedication to her community.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Shelly Lutz on this great honor.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY: MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman DESAULNIER to honor the incredible performance and achievements of the University of California, Berkeley Golden Bear Men's Swimming and Diving team in the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Swimming and Diving Championships.

On March 30, 2019, the Cal Bears captured the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I, swimming and diving national championship following four impressive days of competition at the Lee and Joe Jamall Texas Swimming Center in Austin, Texas.

The Cal Bears have won the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving National Championship six times in program history. The championship was won in 1979, 1980, 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2019.

The Cal Bears also set a school record with 560 points accumulated at the NCAA championships and bested runner-up Texas by an 85-point margin of victory.

I am proud of my alma mater for having extended their run of placing in the top two at the NCAA championships to 10 consecutive years. It also brings me great pride to recognize the Cal Bears' Head Coach, David

Durden, whom will also lead the United States' Men's Swimming Olympic Team in competition in Tokyo, Japan, during the 2020 Summer Games.

Congressman DESAULNIER and I would like to also recognize the impressive student athletes of the victorious program beginning with Senior Andrew Seliskar, the first Cal Bears swimmer in 22 years to win three individual NCAA titles in one NCAA swim meet. He won the 200-yard breaststroke, the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard freestyle. Seliskar was named the 2019 College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America National Swimmer of the Year.

In addition, Congressman DESAULNIER and I would like to recognize Sophomore Ryan Hoffer for his victory of the 50-yard freestyle NCAA title. Senior Andrew Seliskar, Junior Michael Jensen, Junior Pawel Sendyk, and Sophomore Ryan Hoffer won the 200-yard freestyle relay NCAA title.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th and 11th Congressional Districts, I join Congressman DESAULNIER to commend the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the student-athletes, coaches, families, and all others involved with the Cal Bears. Congratulations on a successful season and placing a finalist in every swimming event at the NCAA Championships.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 51

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of American Legion Post 51, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Since its founding on November 20, 1919, Post 51 has made countless contributions to our community.

Over the years, Post 51 has been a fierce advocate for veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and our children and youth. These Four Pillars of the American Legion serve as a guiding light for the organization and pervade all aspects of Post 51's philanthropic work.

Composed of service members, veterans, and military families, Post 51 represents the best our nation has to offer and I am proud to represent a district that has a strong military presence and is home to some of the bravest patriots in the country. Not only did these men and women serve our country while in uniform, they continue to give back to our community's robust veteran population.

Post 51 ensures our men and women in uniform have the resources and support they need throughout and after their service through local advocacy and assistance with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to these important services, Post 51 fosters a community of service for our children through local basketball and softball programs and the Boys & Girls Club of America.

I know I speak for our entire community in offering my most heartfelt gratitude to American Legion Post 51 for their century of service. The exemplary men and women of Post

51 are the heart and soul of our community and I wish them continued success as they serve our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the 100th anniversary of American Legion Post 51.

IN HONOR OF JOHN HEALY, RETIRING FIRE CHIEF OF THE SAN MATEO CONSOLIDATED FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, at the end of this year, John Healy will officially step down as the Fire Chief of the Consolidated Fire Department of San Mateo. He leaves big shoes to fill, and they've grown larger over the course of his 36 year career in the fire service.

John started as a volunteer firefighter at age 19 in 1986 with the Foster City Fire Department. He quickly turned professional as he joined the Hillsborough Fire Department the following year. Ten years later he was a Captain. In 2000, he crossed the bay to serve Union City, and in 2003 he returned to his hometown of San Mateo where he remained for the next sixteen and a half years.

Between the days of his teens in the 1980's until the end of his career, his hometown of San Mateo grew from a quiet suburb of about 77,000 to over 105,000. Growth like this presents any fire department with numerous challenges. An entirely new neighborhood at Bay Meadows emerged. On the east side, a shopping center and office developments demanded resources. Complex traffic patterns and tens of thousands of additional vehicle trips on freeways lacing the city prompted increased numbers of serious medical calls every year. The list goes on.

Importantly, over the decades the financing of public services became more difficult as salaries and pensions escalated steeply. When he returned to San Mateo as a Captain in 2003, John Healy faced a community different in many ways from the one in which he grew up. However, San Mateo remained a town that valued its public safety services. This was vividly illustrated in 2008 when the economy went into a steep recession and newly-elevated Deputy Fire Chief Healy assumed responsibility to enter into a shared services agreement. By 2015, Belmont, San Mateo and Foster City were ready to enter into an agreement to formally create a new and combined department. It wasn't easy.

Now Fire Chief Healy negotiated new labor MOUSs with three cities, jumped through flaming hoops of pension contracts, axed through byzantine State governance laws, and delivered the equivalent of a new baby in the form of a charter amendment authorizing the new agency. By January of this year, the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department was up and running with a new governing board, an improved cost structure, and superior service. Chief Healy deserves the thanks of 168,000 residents in the communities that he serves.

During his career, Chief Healy served with the San Mateo County Operations Group and Communications Committee and built strong relationships with the county public safety dis-

patchers and management. He noted in a recent news article that, "Wearing the uniform and the badge was the greatest honor and it's difficult for words to fully express what that means to me."

John Healy holds a Bachelor's in Fire Administration and Fire Prevention Technology from Cogswell Polytechnical College and earned certification as Chief Officer, CICC Strike Team Leader, Fire Investigator I, Safety Officer and Division Group Supervisor. Chief Healy was aided greatly in his career by his family, notably his wife, Stacey. The couple have three sons. Two attend Sera High School. One is in college.

John Healy grew up in San Mateo with seven siblings and knows his hometown's history like he knows his own. Ask him whatever happened to the Borel estate and he'll probably tell you about the development of Borel Square and offices in its vicinity. That new library on 3rd Avenue? He'll describe its predecessor, and perhaps he even visited once or twice in his youth. Old St. Matthew's Church in downtown San Mateo? A beautiful brick building, but probably not the place a firefighter would want you to be in an earthquake. How many Fire Chiefs can claim to have responded to their first fire call in town by riding a bicycle? I don't know for sure if John Healy is one of them, but it's likely.

Today, let's give thanks for the humor and good nature of a San Mateo favorite son. With honor and great distinction, John Healy is leaving. We look forward to seeing him in Central Park during the Christmas holidays, perhaps skating at the annual ice rink, and hopefully avoiding a fire service call for a medical emergency.

CONGRATULATING THE CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON RECEIPT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate the Carbon County Commissioners on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Economic Development Project of the Year Award.

The Economic Development Project of the Year Award highlights an outstanding economic development project designed to bring jobs and economic growth to Carbon County. Founded in 1843 and named for its large amount of anthracite coal deposits, Carbon County's vibrant economy is driven by manufacturing, commerce, and tourism. In a shining example of public and private cooperation, the Carbon County Commissioners, Jim Thorpe Borough, and the D&L National Heritage Corridor constructed the much-anticipated pedestrian bridge in Jim Thorpe across the Lehigh River. The completion of this bridge allows Pennsylvanians of every age to step out across this beautiful gorge and appreciate the natural beauty of our state. It's just one more reason to visit Jim Thorpe.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to

join me in congratulating the Carbon County Commissioners on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to strengthening our community.

HONORING CONTRA COSTA
TELEVISION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Contra Costa Television (CCTV) on its 25th anniversary.

CCTV was established by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 1994 as a governmental and educational access cable television channel. In addition to airing programming twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week on six channels, CCTV also live streams on its website and social media to reach over 350,000 homes in Contra Costa County. CCTV connects, informs, and entertains the community by airing Board of Supervisor and District meetings, in addition to other community meetings, events, public safety information, local sports, and local programming.

CCTV's award-winning programming includes Veterans' Voices, which won the Western Alliance Video Excellence award in 2016 and 2018 and the California State Association of Counties 2015 Merit Award. Additionally, CCTV has partnered with the Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department and local chapters of the League of Women Voters to provide the Elections Preview programs. This is the only locally produced voter education programing for broadcast and online streaming.

CCTV's slogan, "Making Television Part of the Solution," highlights its dedication to serving the community by providing public broadcasting and communicating County services for the last 25 years. In an era where local journalism is disappearing at an alarming rate, CCTV is a welcome presence in the Bay Area that shares information and brings the community together.

Please join me in honoring Contra Costa Television's 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DAVID SKILLMAN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this week, friends, colleagues, supporters, and family of David Skillman gathered to thank him for over a dozen years of outstanding Congressional service, most recently, as my Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff.

David is the very model of professionalism. His hard work and dedication to innovative policy making represent the very best of the men and women who make Congress function.

David came by his service honestly with parents who themselves were congressional staff early in their careers. David joked that as

an infant, he was the youngest staff member of his fourth district Congressman.

As he rose through the ranks in our office, he was unstinting in his work ethic, his insight, and his integrity. Accolades have poured into our office from his former colleagues from all over America who were touched by his leadership, mentorship, and friendship.

Together, with his wife Sara Chieffo, a senior executive at the League of Conservation Voters, they were perhaps the Capitol's premier "green power couple." David's fingerprints are on dozens of major pieces of legislation both from our office and the Ways and Means Committee. For over a decade, his impact has been profound and his legacy has made a difference to us all. His innate decency and intellect served as an inspiration to me and all of his colleagues. Whatever he does in the next phases of his career, we are better for his service and I know that his contributions will continue to make America better.

We thank him for his invaluable contribution to our office and to Congress. I am deeply indebted for his service and friendship.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH
FOUNDATION ONE WALK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, I walked in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation One Walk at Segra Park, home of the famous Columbia Fireflies, with members of the University of South Carolina chapter of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. I am grateful to have been able to support such an important cause and walk in support of eradicating type 1 diabetes.

The money raised at the JDRF One Walk in Columbia supports life-changing research that gives hope to those impacted by type 1 diabetes. It is an autoimmune disease that strikes suddenly and is serious and stressful to families, challenging families across our district.

Currently, there is nothing that can be done to prevent type 1 diabetes and there is no cure. JDRF is a leader in funding diabetes research, motivated by their vision of a world without type 1 diabetes. This organization works tirelessly to improve the lives of those affected by this disease by accelerating life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent, and treat diabetes.

I appreciate JDRF Palmetto Chapter Development Director Beth McCrary for her hard work and success in coordinating the JDRF Walk in Columbia and for her advocacy for ending type 1 diabetes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CONGRATULATING THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR ON RECEIPT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Economic Development Project of the Year Award.

The Economic Development Project of the Year Award highlights an outstanding economic development project designed to bring jobs and economic growth to Carbon County. A nationally recognized transportation route traversing railroads, canals, rivers and trails, the D&L is a magnificent piece of our community. In a shining example of a public and private cooperation the D&L National Heritage Corridor, Carbon County Commissioners and Jim Thorpe Borough constructed the much-anticipated pedestrian bridge in Jim Thorpe crossing the Lehigh River. The completion of this bridge allows Pennsylvanians of every age to step out across this beautiful gorge and appreciate the natural beauty of our state. It's just one more reason to visit Jim Thorpe.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to strengthening our community.

IN HONOR OF LINDA LAURIA FOR
HER THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE

HON. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a longtime public servant and NY-14 constituent, Linda Lauria.

On November 30, 2019, Linda Lauria, Public Affairs Specialist, will retire from the Social Security Administration. Linda's retirement will mark the close of a career that spans over 34 years of service.

Linda began her career with SSA in August 1973 as a Claims Development Clerk (GS-2, as she often proudly notes) in the East Bronx Social Security office. She was subsequently promoted to positions in the field including Service Representative, and Claims Representative before leaving the agency during February 1984 as a new mother.

Linda rejoined SSA during July 1996, as a Service Representative in the Jamaica Tele-service Center, and was promoted to Benefit Authorizer at the Northeastern Program Service Center during January 1998. She returned to the East Bronx Social Security office as a Claims Representative during September

1998, and joined the Regional Public Affairs Office during November 2005, serving as primary liaison between SSA and the offices of federal, state, and local elected officials. Since that time, Linda has been instrumental in the timely resolution of several thousand constituent inquiries, eliminating barriers between our most vulnerable beneficiaries and their essential cash benefits. She was promoted to Public Affairs Specialist during 2015, the position from which she will retire.

Linda's outstanding contributions to the Agency have been recognized with several awards including Deputy Commissioner's Citations, and the New York Regional Management Society's Regional Office Employee of the Year.

Throughout Linda's career, she has brought intelligence, technical savvy, practical knowledge, and a strong commitment to excellence to every assignment.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Linda Lauria and her dedication to public service and her community.

RECOGNIZING MICKEY GANITCH

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mickey Ganitch, World War II (WWII) Navy veteran and survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, who celebrated his 100th birthday on November 18, 2019.

Mr. Ganitch proudly refers to his younger self as, "just a country boy from Ohio." He was born into a large family and had 13 brothers and sisters. As a young man, Mr. Ganitch's curiosity resulted in a close following of world events and he began to see the deterioration of the situations in Europe and Asia. His concern about the human condition drove him to join the Navy in January 1941, less than 11 months before the Pearl Harbor attack.

When December 6, 1941 arrived, Mr. Ganitch was going about his business on the USS *Pennsylvania* in a football jersey. He was on the ship's team and was supposed to play a game against those serving on the USS *Arizona* that day. Shortly before a practice, the ship's phone rang, alerting the crew of an incoming attack. With rounds bombarding the ship and its crew, Mr. Ganitch climbed the main mast to the crow's nest. From there he was able to alert the gunners below of further incoming enemies, allowing them to bring them down and saving the lives of those on the decks beneath him.

While his experience in Pearl Harbor was certainly a defining moment in his life, Mr. Ganitch continued to serve throughout WWII and the Korean War. He was later assigned to a recruitment post in Oakland, California, right back where his military career began, before retiring as a Senior Chief Quartermaster on October 10, 1963.

Mr. Ganitch is a fixture in our community. He is immediately recognizable by his vivid and extensive wardrobe of Hawaiian shirts and larger-than-life smile. He was also known for how well he "cut a rug" during the musical

numbers at every Veterans Day event. Even today, Mr. Ganitch devotes his time to volunteering with veterans' organizations in the Bay Area and educating school children about the war in an effort to never let the events at Pearl Harbor be forgotten.

I thank Mr. Ganitch for his selfless service to our country. I hope to continue learning from his example of a century-long life well-lived.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROFESSOR KASTURI RANGAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Professor Kasturi Rangan of the Harvard Business School on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Professor Rangan began his education by receiving a Bachelor of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in 1971, and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad in 1973. He then held a number of marketing positions for large corporations in India before receiving a Ph.D. in marketing from Northwestern in 1983.

After receiving his Ph.D. Professor Rangan joined the faculty of the Harvard Business School in 1983 as a marketing professor. He served as the chair of the Marketing Department from 1998–2002 and is currently the chairman of the Harvard Social Enterprise Initiative. He has taught first-year core classes, second-year electives, and in the upper level Advanced Management Program for senior managers. Professor Rangan has also received multiple academic awards over the course of his career, including the 2002 Editors' Prize for the Best Scholarly Paper and the 2014 Case Centre Award in Economics, Politics and Business Environment.

Along with his extensive teaching credentials, Professor Rangan has co-authored ten books and dozens of scholarly articles published in academic journals. One of his recent case studies titled "Performance Marketing in the Digital Age" looks at Gupta Media, a group started by Gogi Gupta who is a close friend of Professor Rangan and from Western New York. His active interest in the continual improvement of marketing and management strategies makes Professor Rangan an invaluable asset to the business community, and an individual whose impact is felt in many communities including my own.

Professor Rangan has actively researched the role of marketing in nonprofit organizations, and often focuses on how this marketing impacts adoption of social products and ideas. His goal is to develop models of successful businesses that bring value to the lowest income earners in our modern economy. Specifically, he is attempting to address the needs and wants of the 4.2 billion individuals worldwide who live on less than \$5 a day. This research should be commended for its value in uplifting the most vulnerable members of our society.

Madam Speaker, I take this time to recognize the achievements and contributions of

Professor Kasturi Rangan. We extend our best wishes as he continues to lead the business community in marketing research and developing solutions for economically disadvantaged individuals.

CONGRATULATING DORRIE MERLUZZI ON RECEIPT OF THE AMBASSADORS AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Dorrie Merluzzi of Palmerton on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's (CCEDC) Ambassadors Award.

The Ambassadors Award recognizes an outstanding individual dedicated to supporting the local chamber through organizing and attending events, assisting staff, and serving as the backbone of the organization. Ambassadors selflessly give their time and talents to embody the Chamber's tireless spirit and cultivate a stronger community. Dorinda Merluzzi demonstrates all these qualities in her service to the Chamber and to our community. Always willing to lend a helping hand with a cheerful and calming presence, her leadership, direction, and motivation has set a tremendous example for other Ambassadors.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dorrie Merluzzi on this great honor and thank her for their commitment to strengthening our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PETE SZYMANSKI

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Pete Szymanski who we lost unexpectedly earlier this year. Pete was an extraordinary soul whose kind heart and generosity touched the lives of many.

Pete was a dedicated member of our military having served as a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and served on active duty at the Detroit Arsenal in Michigan as well as the Army Reserve. Following his active duty service, Pete began a 33-year civilian career with the Army at the Detroit Arsenal before moving to the Stratford Army Engine Plant (SAEP) where he served for 22 years, retiring just this past February. It was through the SAEP that I had the opportunity to meet Pete. He was Army Installation Manager and, though the property was closed many years ago through a Base Realignment and Closure process, Pete remained at the site, hoping to see the property transferred for redevelopment before his retirement. Unfortunately, we are still working towards that goal. I would be remiss if I did not extend a special

note of thanks to Pete for his willingness to work with myself and my staff over the years as we have worked with the Army and the Stratford community to move the transfer and redevelopment process forward.

Pete played a unique and special role in the closure of the SAEP. He was determined that the site would not become just another abandoned eyesore. It was Pete who both envisioned and executed a plan to dispose of the excess Allied Signal machinery in a way that garnered millions of dollars for the Army and it was Pete that approved the use of the SAEP as a redistribution point for the 9–11 recovery supplies. He carefully budgeted every penny of the scarce budget he managed to ensure that the property remained properly maintained. It was also Pete who showed his support for the community by opening the facilities for a variety of activities including K–9 training and the Viki Soto SK, an annual run in memory of the young Stratford teacher whose life was cut tragically short at the school shooting in Newtown.

Pete Szymanski was an extraordinary man whose commitment and dedication to his job and his community earned him the respect and admiration of friends, colleagues, and community leaders alike. Today, I am honored to rise to pay tribute to his memory and to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Kathryn, and their family. Pete's passing will leave a hole in the hearts of all those who knew him and a void in the community that will never quite be filled.

HONORING LIEUTENANT THOMAS
EVERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize today that former Congressman Petri's father, LT Thomas Evert, the pilot, and the crew of U.S. Navy Plane No. 63917 will be posthumously awarded medals for their heroic actions in the sinking of a German U-boat off the coast of the Bahamas in World War II. On August 7, 1943, U.S. Navy plane No. 63917, a U.S. Navy PB4Y Liberator Bomber of Bombing Squadron 105 (VB–105) piloted by Lt. Thomas Evert, USNR, successfully located German U-boat 84 and, after a four-and-a-half-hour engagement at close quarters in the face of hostile enemy fire, sank the submarine.

Prior to this action, German U-boat 84, a type VIII B Boat, was deployed off the coast of the Bahamas and the east coast of Florida. Hundreds of Allied naval vessels as well as, over 3,000 Allied merchant vessels were destroyed resulting in the deaths of over 70,000 aviators and seamen during the Battle of the Atlantic. As with all U-boats, the presence of U-boat 84 posed a serious threat to Allied war efforts in the western hemisphere.

Following their heroic efforts, Lt. Evert and his crew, as well as plane No. 63917 were reassigned to the United Kingdom. On October 22, 1943, Lt. Evert and his crew, along with the Bomber, went down after an aerial engagement with a German Blohm & Voss BV 222 Viking off the Atlantic coast of Europe.

Though long-delayed, the pilot and crew of U.S. Navy plane No. 63917 will receive the following posthumous awards:

LT Thomas Rudolph Evert, pilot: The Distinguished Flying Cross

LT David William Emmet, co-pilot: The Air Medal

ENS James O'Hara, second pilot: The Air Medal

ENS Edward J. Ellis, navigator, bombardier: The Air Medal

AMM1 Kendall L. Dungey, crown turret gunner: The Air Medal

AMM2 Karl J. Bertram, port waist gunner: The Air Medal

ARM2 John F. Wagner, radio operator: The Air Medal

ARM3 James T. Goble, radio operator: The Air Medal

AOM3 Raymond O. Haines, bow lookout, bow gunner: The Air Medal

AMMC3 Edwin Emery Winship, tail turret gunner: The Air Medal

In April 2018, I joined former Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Shuster, current Chairman DEFAZIO, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, and former Congressman Frank LoBiondo in urging the Navy to approve these awards. These awards are well deserved, and I am pleased to congratulate former Congressman Petri and the families of all the crew members of the PB4Y Liberator Bomber on receiving them.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF
GUPTA MEDIA GROUP AND MR.
GUPTA'S COMMITMENT TO THE
WESTERN NEW YORK COMMU-
NITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the success of Gupta Media and Mr. Gogi Gupta's commitment to the Western New York Community on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Gupta Media is a digital marketing agency that specializes in media buying, creative design, and technology solutions. Since their founding in 2005 by Gogi Gupta they have consistently been on the forefront of maximizing advertising effectiveness for clients in multiple industries. Currently, Gupta Media represents a number of music artists signed to both large and small record labels, including artists who have performed and been nominated during the Grammy awards show in past years. This October Gupta Media was included as a case study within the Harvard Business Review, where it was recognized as having a successful business model which optimizes its clients marketing dollars with a high degree of performance.

During his youth Mr. Gupta spent some of his time in Pittsburgh before finishing high school in Hamburg, NY, a suburb of Buffalo, NY. He attended Frontier High School before being accepted to Cornell University, where he graduated in 2000 with a degree in public policy. He founded Gupta Media in 2005 after deciding to take his marketing career into his own hands. The company's first major success came when they helped the music duo Aly & AJ reach the top of MTV's "Total Request Live" charts. Since then, Gupta Media

has only grown in stature and now proudly employs more than 50 people.

Following this success Mr. Gupta did not stop, going on to create the automated and publicly available product smartURL in 2011. Built to redirect online users to specific internet destinations based on the country they are accessing the site from, smartURL has been used by professional athletes, multinational corporations, and celebrities, and is another example of the intelligent innovation Mr. Gupta has fostered.

While Mr. Gupta currently lives in Boston, MA, where he manages Gupta Media, he has remained connected to his hometown of Buffalo, NY. He has adopted fandom for the local MLB team, the Boston Red Sox, but is still loyal to his hometown Buffalo Bills and Sabers. Mr. Gogi Gupta is emblematic of the hard work and dedication that the Western New York community thrives on, and I am proud that Mr. Gupta finds his roots in Buffalo.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that Mr. Gupta will continue to be at the forefront of change and foster innovation and creativity. We extend our best wishes to him and Gupta Media as they continue to lead this industry into the future.

CONGRATULATING JENNY'S
SWEETS & MORE ON RECEIPT OF
THE ROOKIE BUSINESS OF THE
YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Jenny's Sweets and More in Lehighon on being named the recipient of the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Rookie Business of the Year Award.

The Rookie Business of the Year recognizes a business in operation less than two years that has demonstrated enthusiasm, community spirit and commitment to growing in Carbon County. Jenny's Sweets and More, owned by Jennifer Solt-Cerato, has proven to be an outstanding addition to the Lehighon community. In addition to offering delicious candies, Jenny's Sweets and More always has an eye to the community and places a heavy emphasis on giving back. This business brings joy and light to its customers, both young and old, and represents the values of kindness and altruism that are characteristic of our Pennsylvania communities.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jenny's Sweets and More on this great honor and thank her for her commitment to our community.

HONORING MS. ANITA BOURN 30
YEARS AS A CONGRESSIONAL
STAFFER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my very own, Ms. Anita Faye Bourn, for thirty years of dedicated service as a congressional staffer. Anita's career with the U.S. House of Representatives began in 1989 when my predecessor, Gene Taylor, won the special election. Anita was hired on as a secretary, but quickly found her niche through constituent services. When I first took office in 2010, I had the opportunity to carry over staff from the previous administration. Anita was an obvious choice and to this day, has proven to be one of my most trusted staffers.

Anita was born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, with family, faith, and music at her epicenter. She would say her mother, Christine Bourn, is the heart and soul of the family. She has two sons, and a niece, to whom she is known as "Tee-Tee". Anita also claims a host of brothers and sisters in Christ through her church family at Shady Grove Baptist Church. Anita is a long-time member of the church music ministry and is deservedly considered the resident "rock star". I can attest to this as I have had the privilege of hearing her beautiful rendition of "God Bless America".

Anita's musical career officially began at the age of 12, when she started playing piano during church services. Since then, Anita has served as Director of the inspirational choir, the senior adult choir, and the men's chorus, while also directing the annual Easter and Christmas programs. One year, she depicted the Christian family in Tyler Perry's *Madea* style, which was undoubtedly an audience favorite. More recently, Anita was nominated as the Choir Director of the Year at the Gulf Coast Gospel Music Awards. Whether she is serving my constituents, or ministering to her community, Anita pours her heart into each of her endeavors.

In a few words, Anita is faith-filled, compassionate, vibrant, and a true expert in her field. I could not ask for a better representative among my staff. To close, I would like to share one of Anita's favorite bible verses, Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose". Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Anita Bourn for thirty exceptional years.

IN HONOR OF SUSAN MANHEIMER,
RETIRING POLICE CHIEF OF SAN
MATEO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, local law enforcement often establishes a link with children through use of a costumed character known as "McGruff the Crime Dog." Universally trusted, McGruff makes police and their awesome

duties accessible. However, in the City of San Mateo, McGruff is outmatched in popularity by Police Chief Susan Manheimer. Once you know Chief Manheimer, it's easy to see why many in a room give her a hug and ignore the dog.

She is a Chief who is tough but kind, patient with the just but impatient with the dishonorable, quick to draw a line in the sand when public safety necessitates it but equally quick to reach out to troubled youths or adults when the security of the community and human dignity require it. Many parents with troubled teens have come to know Susan under difficult circumstances. Most would tell you her influence was akin to a heavenly blessing wrapped in a dark blue uniform with a badge.

Chief Manheimer is now retiring. From all who know her, it is likely that one tear will be shed in joy because she earned family and recreation time and they are happy about her future. Another will be shed because the wisdom she exhibited must now be found amongst the rest of us. We wonder if we are equal to the task.

Her mantra is "community policing." The gift of her service is that she stressed both words equally. She first exhibited this talent as an officer in one of San Francisco's most challenging neighborhoods, the Tenderloin. She spearheaded a Safety Ambassador Program, a community improvement district, homeless outreach teams, and juvenile diversion and referral practices. Her résumé notes that she served with the SFPD decoy unit, as well as in violent-crime suppression and gang suppression. As her star rose within the department, it was obvious that the community trusted Susan Manheimer.

In 2000, she was welcomed as the first woman to serve as the San Mateo Police Chief. Under her leadership, and with the strong support of the outstanding men and women of the San Mateo Police Department, the community, city management, and her city council, the department received awards for the improved quality of life in San Mateo.

She built her department's practices based upon evidence about sustainable solutions that strike at the root of neighborhood safety and quality of life. Her department emphasizes building legitimacy, trust and engagement between the police and the community.

This is best exhibited by remarks of one of the past officers who managed the Police Activities League. When that officer would see a group of boisterous teens on a street corner, she could often recognize each of them and would wave. They were her team members, not a youth gang. Chief Manheimer, joined by an outstanding staff, built that close relationship with the community. In addition to youth sports, she also started homeless outreach teams and sought increased resources for the homeless. Crime was suppressed by working with neighborhood leaders. Youth crime plummeted in part because sports substituted for mischief.

Chief Manheimer's regional, state, national, and international professional accomplishments are too numerous to mention in full. These include serving on the Juvenile Justice Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, serving as the first woman President of the California Police Chief's Association and the San Mateo County Chief's and Sheriff's Association, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Conflict

Resolution Center. She holds a Bachelor's in Business Management from Saint Mary's College in Moraga and a Master's in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

It's been a privilege to call Susan Manheimer a friend. She can be riotously funny and is always the spark in the room of any gathering. When she shows up in uniform, her shoes are polished to Marine Corps standards. Her son, Jesse, is a Captain in the Corps. Ever competitive, Mom won't be outdone. Her daughter, Sarah, is an accomplished attorney. Susan is also the grandmother of Jackson, Lucas and Karina.

Madam Speaker, we were fortunate Police Chief Susan Manheimer has led the City of San Mateo with us. McGruff will someday come back in his uniform. Susan will walk amongst us in civilian attire. That's ok. In our childhood imaginations we adored McGruff. In the adult world, we will always love our favorite top cop. Happy retirement Police Chief Susan Manheimer.

CELEBRATING THE NAVAL SERVICE OF EDWIN EARL THOMPSON

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a great sailor, Chief Edwin "Easy" Thompson, United States Navy (Retired), for thirty years of service as an Engineman Chief Master Diver (Frogman) in the United States Navy.

After enlisting in the Navy in 1944, Thompson served on the hospital ship USS *Haven* (AH-12) and evacuated wounded from the Marshall Islands, Guam, and other South Pacific Islands. During World War II, Mr. Thompson also served aboard a destroyer minesweeper in the Straits of Alaska. Thompson served on many ships during his career, but one of his greatest highlights was serving as a Marine Honor Guard when the Battleship *Texas* (BB-35) was turned over to the state of Texas in 1948.

From 1948 to 1952, Edwin Thompson was stationed on the Battleship *Missouri* (BB-63). On the *Missouri*, he participated in the battles of Inchon and Hungnam during the Korean War. Mr. Thompson has also pointed out that he was on the USS *Missouri* both times she ran aground.

In the 1950s, Easy joined the Underwater Demolition Team Two, Unit 22 and served alongside his friend, Michael Murphy who was killed in Vietnam during an underwater explosion. Michael Murphy's grandson, Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during SEAL Team One's Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan.

On January 17, 1966, a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber armed with hydrogen bombs collided mid-air with a tanker while refueling over the Mediterranean Sea near Palomares, Spain. One hundred tons of flaming wreckage was spread over 15 square miles with one of the bombs tumbling into the sea. Thankfully, the three other bombs hit the ground and did not explode.

The Chief of Naval Operations created Task Force 65 consisting of 34 ships, 2,200 sailors,

130 frogmen (including Chief Edwin Thompson), and 4 miniature submarines to recover the warhead from the sea. Secretary of the Navy Paul Ignatius later described the successful recovery as “the largest and most difficult deep-sea search ever conducted by any country in the world.” Thompson’s team of frogmen recovered the warhead under 2,162 feet of water just a few feet from edge of a 5,000-foot abyss. The recovered warheads were 75 times more powerful than the Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Mr. Thompson continued diving and worked for Brown & Root for many years. He also served as a Reserve Deputy with the Harris County Precinct Three Constable’s Office for twenty years. Thompson has served as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 912 Commander and is a life-member of several other community organizations, including the American Legion and Fleet Reserve Association. He is also a member of the Shiners and Freemasons.

Edwin Thompson was married to Mrs. Margaret Bell Griffin Thompson for forty-four years until her death in 1992. Together they have seven children: John, Tammy, Lorrie Anne, Mary Frances, Don Marie, Sue Ellen, and Margaret. He has 49 grandchildren, and many other great-grandchildren. The Thompson family has a long history of career military service to our country spanning several generations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chief Edwin “Easy” Thompson, as well as his family, for their selfless service to this great nation.

HONORING MARILYN GLAZER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the compassionate and efficient service and valuable contributions of my dear personal friend, Ms. Marilyn Glazer, who is retiring from her role as Niles Township Supervisor on December 31, 2019. Marilyn has served as an effective elected official to her community for nearly 15 years, and her leadership has changed Niles Township for the better.

Marilyn Glazer was first elected as a Niles Township Trustee in 2005, and she held this position until her election as Supervisor in 2014. Marilyn worked hard to make sure that Niles Township residents had access to the best services that the township could offer.

Marilyn helped to increase resources allocated to the Niles Township food pantry and under her leadership, the food pantry has grown and moved into a new and larger space. The food pantry provides a lifeline for many township residents. Marilyn helped establish local grants available for qualifying students to attend Oakton Community College, and scholarships for day care and park district day camp. She also oversaw efforts to meaningfully improve and expand access to senior legal services, immigration services, and utility bill assistance.

My office has worked closely with Niles Township throughout Marilyn’s tenure to ensure that our shared constituents receive effective and efficient assistance. My district

staff holds regular neighborhood office hours in the township offices and works closely with the township staff to solve constituents’ problems. Marilyn maintained excellent working relationships with my staff and has always been a fierce advocate for Niles Township residents.

Marilyn will continue her long and successful career as a realtor and real estate teacher after her retirement from the township.

Marilyn Glazer’s professional work speaks for itself, and I deeply admire her dedicated effort to better the lives of residents throughout Niles Township. On behalf of the constituents of the 9th Congressional District, I thank Marilyn for her service and tireless work over the last 15 years.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA ADAMCZYK ON RECEIPT OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Jessica Adamczyk of Weatherly on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation’s Young Professional of the Year Award.

The Young Professional of the Year Award highlights a Carbon County Young Professional highly involved in CCEDC events and community programs. Jessica graduated from Weatherly High School in 2013 and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kutztown University in 2016. Currently a Marketing Associate at Heritage Hill Senior Community, Jessica is also incredibly engaged with the Hazelton and Carbon County Chambers, serving on the board of the Future Leaders of Carbon County Community. She also volunteers with Gap Inc. and serves as the Business Operations Manager for the Weatherly Ambulance Association. Lastly, Jessica recognizes the importance of a health community, founding the Weatherly Recreation Committee and participating in the Weatherly Summer Volleyball League. Carbon County’s future is bright with young and enthusiastic leaders like Jessica leading the way.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania’s Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jessica Adamczyk on this great honor and thank her for her commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TOM BRADLEY AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and retirement of Tom Bradley after 24 years of service at the Congressional Budget Office. Tom has been Chief of the Medicare Cost Es-

timates Unit for 21 of those years. He also spent almost 6 years at the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services, for a total of nearly 30 years in federal service.

It is hard to overstate Tom’s role in analyzing the budgetary impacts of health legislation over the past two decades. Notable examples include the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. In all of those interactions, Tom has been instrumental in providing insightful and objective estimates of the effects of every piece of important health care legislation that the Congress has considered, debated, and enacted since 1995.

Tom has worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and our staff on both sides of the aisle throughout the years. During many hours of discussion and explanation, he was never less than methodically forthright and fair, embodying CBO’s commitment to nonpartisan analysis. He helped us understand the key levers to move an estimate and the need to focus on making the language match the intent.

Tom also trained numerous CBO analysts to think harder, dig deeper, and consider all the possible outcomes of a bill. The high standards that he set for himself and for the Medicare Unit will continue to be a benchmark for CBO’s health analysis going forward.

Tom can look forward to a well-earned retirement with his wife, Judith, in Florida. He leaves CBO and Washington with the thanks and appreciation of the Congress.

TRIBUTE TO VERONICA DAVILA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life of Ms. Veronica Davila who passed away on November 13, 2019 at the age of 66. Ms. Davila hails from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas and is survived by her children, Lisa Luna, Enoch Díaz and Maricela Díaz-Wells; eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and four siblings. A life-long advocate and educator, her contribution to the San Antonio community is irreplaceable. She will be greatly missed.

Veronica Davila was born on December 16, 1952 to Adolfo Rodriguez, Sr. and Leonarda Vasquez Jimenez. Early on she developed a keen interest in family, community, and faith. For thirty years she worked extensively in the community and in non-profit organizations. For decades she dedicated herself to planning and the implementation of programs to end family violence.

Until her untimely passing, Ms. Davila worked with the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, or Putting An End to Abuse through Community Efforts. She was also known to help at-risk youth and victims of domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, my heart goes out to the family and loved ones of Ms. Veronica Davila. A true hero in our community, she forged life-long friendships and connections with the many people she helped. At times, victims of domestic and family violence go unheard. Her passion and dedication to survivors gave them a voice. Her contribution to the San Antonio community will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING TOM CAULFIELD

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Tom Caulfield, the Founder and Director/President of Veteran Community Initiatives, for his commitment to our region's veterans.

A U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, Mr. Caulfield has dedicated his life to serving others. As founder of Veteran Community Initiatives, he and his team have touched the lives of thousands of veterans in our region. Since its inception in 1993, Veteran Community Initiatives has helped nearly 9,000 veterans and their family members in the PA Laurel Highlands and the Southern Alleghenies.

In addition to his work with VCI, Mr. Caulfield is active with many veteran service organizations, including his current work on the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center's Veterans Advisory Council, the former Defense Veterans Brain Injury Center—Johnstown as Board Chairman, the Penn Highlands Community College/John P. Murtha Scholarship Committee as Chairman, and the Cambria County Business and Education Consortia.

By caring and advocating for Pennsylvania veterans, Mr. Caulfield has established an indelible legacy. It is my privilege to recognize this community leader for his lifelong dedication to our nation and to his fellow veterans.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF TERRY CLANTON AND HIS 36-YEAR CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Police Chief Terry Clanton on his 36 years of service to our community with the Kannapolis Police Department, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Over the last 36 years, Terry has made countless contributions to our area. He started his career in 1984 as a patrol officer for the Kannapolis Police Department and retires today as the Deputy Police Chief. His strong character and leadership enabled him to advance within the Kannapolis Police Department, culminating as Deputy Police Chief.

Growing up in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties, Terry knew he wanted to give back to his community through law enforcement. Rising through the ranks of patrol, investigations, staff services, and support services, his outsized contributions to the Kannapolis Police Department have been profound and unmatched. Terry helped guide his office through the transition that followed the incorporation of the City of Kannapolis and saw the number of police officers rise from 48 to over 100. Described by colleagues as dedicated, loyal, and a true professional, his legacy of service will be felt for years to come.

Terry will continue his career in law enforcement as the Director of Law Enforcement Training at Guilford Technical Community Col-

lege, where he will train our next generation of leaders. I know I speak for everyone in the community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Terry Clanton on his 36 years of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COMMANDER SAMMY L. VICKERS

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of one of Northwest Florida's most notable citizens, Commander Sammy L. Vickers, who passed away on March 29, 2018. Commander Vickers was born in 1946, in Corpus Christi, TX, and lived a lifetime full of impressive and dedicated service to our nation.

Commander Vickers served heroically in the United States Navy for 22 years. As a P-3C Orion pilot during the tumultuous years of the Cold War, Commander Vickers patrolled the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans hunting Russian submarines. His dedication to duty helped ensure the safety of millions of grateful Americans.

Commander Vickers was later assigned to VP-6 in Hawaii and VP-5 in Jacksonville, Florida. He also served aboard the USS *Eisenhower*, CVN 69. Commander Vickers' service in the United States military culminated as the Executive Officer at Whiting Field in Florida, where he eventually retired.

However, Commander Vickers' life of service did not conclude with his retirement from the United States Navy. In 1995, Commander Vickers served the Santa Rosa community as the Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce.

Following his time with the Santa Rosa Chamber, Commander Vickers devoted his time to leading the Pace High School Navy JROTC unit. He served as unit commander for 18 years, leading Pace High School to top national honors in 2003.

Even during his time as the unit leader of the Pace High School Navy JROTC, Commander Vickers continued to selflessly devote himself to our community as he partnered with several other community organizations. Commander Vickers consistently dedicated his time to the service of others.

Commander Vickers was revered and loved by all who knew him. To honor his extraordinary legacy, the traditional "Celebrating Our Veterans" ceremony at Pace High School will be renamed "Commander Sam Vickers Celebration of America at Pace High School."

On behalf of the United States Congress, I recognize and honor a remarkable man for his selfless service to his country. I am grateful for his lasting contributions to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a faithful and dedicated American hero.

SHARK FIN SALES ELIMINATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member MCCAUL and Representative SABLAN for their leadership on H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, an important animal and wildlife protection bill. Their efforts earned the broad bipartisan support of nearly 290 Members of the House who cosponsored the bill which passed on an overwhelming bipartisan basis.

Many sharks are killed through the horrific method of "shark finning," a method of removing fins from sharks while they are still alive at sea and discarding the rest of the shark. This bill would expand the Shark Conservation Act, which was passed in 2010, prohibiting the commercial trade of shark fins and products containing shark fins, to also prohibit taking the fins of sharks at sea.

Currently, shark finning is illegal in U.S. waters, but more is needed to protect these rapidly declining shark populations. Shark fins sold in the U.S. come from all over the world, including locations which have no bans on finning. The United States is in the top 15 shark-fin-importing countries in terms of volume. It is highly likely that shark fins sold in the United States come from sharks that have been brutally finned from places that allow shark finning.

Some populations have declined by up to 90 percent in recent decades leaving almost 25 percent of shark and ray species at risk of extinction. These global populations are currently threatened by this practice and instituting this ban will help to reduce the demand for shark fins and conserve these species while still allowing the sales of shark meat and products.

My home state of Illinois has already enacted a law prohibiting the shark fin trade joining 12 states and 3 territories that already have laws banning the sale of shark fins, similar to this bill.

I voted yes on this bill and applaud my colleagues who also voted in favor of H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

CONGRATULATING JOEY B'S BAR & RESTAURANT ON RECEIPT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Joey B's Bar & Restaurant in Lehighon on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award recognizes a business that has demonstrated achievement and innovation in management, workplace excellence, and has committed to growing here in Carbon County. Established in

1988 by Chip and Shari Solt to honor the passing of a friend, Joey Barbosa, Joey B's has evolved into a vibrant gathering place for those in the community. The Solt family has been committed to continuing their tradition of offering a warm atmosphere for friends to gather and create memories—truly making Joey B's a place "Where Good Friends Meet."

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joey B's Bar & Restaurant on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to our community.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter I sent to the U.S. Attorney General concerning H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Act.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. WILLIAM BARR,
U.S. Attorney General,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: I write to raise concerns about a court filing recently made by prosecutors in the Department, who cited my recent legislative efforts to support Jeffrey Epstein's victims as being in opposition to their currently pending petition before the Eleventh Circuit. I hope that you will direct your prosecutors to correct the misimpression that their inaccurate representation has created.

I introduced H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act (the "CVRA Reform Act"), in the House of Representatives on October 17, 2019. The bill was inspired by the challenges faced by the victims of serial sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein in Florida, who were left in the dark as prosecutors hashed out a secretive and shockingly lenient plea deal. Among other things, my bill would clarify the scope of rights guaranteed by the Crime Victims' Rights Act ("CVRA"), 18 U.S.C. §3771(a), by stating what the law already provides in more explicit terms and conforming the text to the original intent of Congress.

In an attempt to deny the rights of Epstein's victims in Florida, attorneys in the Department latched onto my bill and misrepresented its intent in a brief recently submitted to the Eleventh Circuit. Brief of the United States, *In re Courtney Wild*, No. 19-13843 (11th Cir. Oct. 31, 2019). In particular, the Department stated that my CVRA Reform Act would "amend the CVRA to state that its rights are extended to cover non-prosecution agreements." *Id.* at 43.

That is not what my bill would do. It would not "extend[]" the CVRA's rights to non-prosecution agreements, since the CVRA already covers non-prosecution agreements. Rather, the bill would merely clarify that the CVRA covers non-prosecution agreements.

This is exactly what was said in the press release the Department's attorneys cited:

The Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act will:

Clarify that victims of federal crimes have the right to confer with the Government and be informed about key pre-charging developments in a case, such as . . . non-prosecution agreements.

Press Release, Rep. Speier Introduces Bipartisan Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act of 2019 to Rectify Injustices Faced by Epstein's Victims (Oct. 17, 2019) (emphasis added), available at <https://speier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-speier-introducesbipartisan-courtney-wild-crime-victims-rights>.

Your prosecutors are obviously attempting to suggest that it is my view, and the view of my legislative co-sponsors, that existing law does not provide protection to Courtney Wild and other victims. But, as the press release states, the legislation is designed to "clarify" what we understood to already be existing law and Congressional intent under the CVRA.

The CVRA already provides that crime victims have CVRA rights during the entirety of a criminal case—at every stage, from the initial investigation all the way through any disposition and sentence. Earlier in the Epstein case, the District Court rejected the Department's crabbed interpretation, relying on numerous court opinions correctly holding that the rights guaranteed by the CVRA "extend to the pre-charge stage of criminal investigations and proceedings." *Doe v. United States*, 950 F. Supp. 2d 1262, 1267 (S.D. Fla. 2013) (collecting cases); see also *In re Dean*, 527 F.3d 391, 394 (5th Cir. 2008). When Congress enacted the CVRA, it intended to protect crime victims throughout the criminal justice process—from the investigative phases to the conclusion of a case. Congress could not have been clearer in its direction that using "best efforts" to enforce the CVRA was an obligation of "[o]fficers and employees of the Department of Justice and other departments and agencies of the United States engaged in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." 18 U.S.C. §3771(c)(1) (emphasis added).

This is not the first time the Department has misinterpreted legislative history in trying to deny victims their rights. For example, in 2011 Senator Kyl, one of the sponsors of the CVRA, was compelled to put a statement into the Congressional Record when the Justice Department twisted his words. See Letter from Jon Kyl, U.S. Sen. to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Att'y Gen. (June 6, 2011), reprinted in 157 Cong. Rec. S3608 (daily ed. June 8, 2011). Senator Kyl was responding to a 2010 Office of Legal Counsel opinion in which the Department cited his statements in support of the CVRA's passage to arrive at the (incorrect) position that CVRA rights only "are guaranteed from the time that criminal proceedings are initiated (by complaint, information, or indictment) and cease to be available if all charges are dismissed either voluntarily or on the merits (or if the Government declines to bring formal charges after the filing of a complaint)." Office of Legal Counsel, Mem. Op., *The Availability of Crime Victims' Rights Under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004* (Dec. 17, 2010, publicly released May 20, 2011). Congress responded by clarifying that the CVRA includes "[t]he right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement." Pub. L. 114-22, title I, §113(a), 129 Stat. 240.

Despite Congress' clear intention to provide rights to victims throughout the criminal process, the Department has consistently read the CVRA narrowly and shirked its statutorily required "best efforts." That is one reason I was compelled to write the CVRA Reform Act—to get the Department to follow through on the CVRA's promises. I am displeased that my legislation and accompanying press release were misinterpreted, and I trust that you will direct your prosecutors to correct with the Eleventh Cir-

cuit their erroneous description of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

JACKIE SPEIER.

CELEBRATING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF LELAND CALVIN BUTLER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Leland Calvin "L.C." Butler, a 96 year old World War II veteran of the United States Marine Corps, for his service to our great nation.

L.C. Butler was born in Temple, Texas on July 19, 1923 to Ann Patton Butler. His family moved to Houston in 1932. On August 19, 1942, Mr. Butler enlisted in the United States Marines Corps in San Antonio, Texas. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California for seven weeks, training one week at the firing range, and two months in Imperial Valley, California learning how to operate the "big guns."

A new anti-aircraft battalion was formed and L.C. became part of the 2nd Airdrome Battalion, which later became the 17th Defense Battalion. Butler's battalion's assignment was to provide anti-aircraft defense to airstrips secured by Allied Forces and to protect them after they were secured. As a result, he did not see as much fighting as many of his friends. Butler considers their assignment the luck of the draw.

Butler's division was sent to the Nukufetau Atoll where he served until the summer of 1944. After Nukufetau, his battalion was sent to Kauai for a short rest. In late summer of 1944, Mr. Butler boarded a ship to Tinian. He remained on the ship for approximately 60 days until the island was secured. Once Tinian was taken Butler's battalion moved ashore and used their anti-aircraft guns to protect the air strips from further attacks.

Toward the end of their deployment they discovered the *Enola Gay* was stationed on Tinian Island. This B-29 Superfortress became the first airplane to drop an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 over Hiroshima, Japan. L.C. and his battalion were on a ship heading back to the United States when the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The dropping of both atomic bombs expedited the end of World War II.

The Marines were sent to San Diego and quarantined for two weeks because First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt felt it necessary due to outbreaks of different ailments while they were stationed on various Pacific islands. L.C. said she wasn't very popular with the Marines at that time, but that they were treated well during the two weeks.

L.C. Butler returned home to Houston, Texas the first week in September 1945 and married Dorothy Nell Corgey on September 7, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Butler took one thousand dollars that L.C. won during a poker game on the ship back to the United States and stayed in a hotel in downtown Houston for a month for their honeymoon.

Following their honeymoon, the Butlers went to Corpus Christi for about three weeks. There

he was honorably discharged from the United States Marines Corps on October 25, 1945. From the age of nineteen, L.C.'s life motto, has been "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

L.C. and Dorothy were married for 62 years until she passed away on April 11, 2008. They have two daughters, Lynn B. Lucas and Debra Westberry, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and another great grandchild on the way.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Butler for his selfless service to this great nation.

CONGRATULATING JAMES WIMMER ESQ. ON RECEIPT OF THE WILLIAM H. BAYER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate James Wimmer on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's (CCEDC) William H. Bayer Lifetime Achievement Award.

The William H. Bayer Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by the CCEDC each year to a CCEDC member that has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the community, which Mr. Wimmer has certainly done. After graduating from University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1965, he began his career practicing law in Palmerton and served as an Assistant District Attorney from 1967 until 1975. In addition, he advocated on behalf of students and families in Palmerton in his position as School District Solicitor for over thirty years. Throughout his legal career, Jim was also involved in the banking industry, serving in senior leadership roles at several banks, including Citizen's Bank in Palmerton. Jim used his banking expertise to help guide new families through the process of buying their first home and entrepreneurs navigate the obstacles of starting a small business.

After nearly 50 years of serving our community's students, families, and businesses with integrity and compassion, Mr. Wimmer retired from his law practice in September. His dedicated work in our community should be celebrated.

In addition to his law career, Mr. Wimmer has been a devoted family man and active member of our community, married to his wife Linda for 56 years and spending decades volunteering his time to organizations whose missions benefit those in need.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Wimmer on a lifetime of selfless commitment to our community.

HONORING ROSIE HARRIS AND HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODEL CONGRESS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, every so often I find myself in awe of our next generation. Just recently, I had the opportunity to read a presentation by Rosie Harris during her participation in the Model Congress program as a member of the Dalton School Delegation. It was inspiring and so I would like to share her authorization speech as well as her legislative proposal, the Menstrual Parity Act of 2019. If this is the leadership and vision we can expect from the next generation, I believe we are indeed in good hands.

"Hello. I am Representative Harris. Friends, colleagues, I rise to introduce the Menstrual Parity Act of 2019. Half of our country is female and on average, female bodied people menstruate once a month for 40 years. In this country, women have been treated as second class citizens since the beginning of time. While we have had some progress, and there are plenty of other areas that need work. My bill proposes one small but incredibly important aspect of the fight towards equality—a step towards economic equality."

"This is simple. The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019 does the following: In any place we have facilities open to the public (ie. parks, libraries, you name it), where toilets or bathrooms are made available, this act would require that if toilet paper is provided for free, menstrual products would be provided for free as well. It's simple but meaningful progress. At the federal level, we require it. At the state level, we will reimburse the entire costs of it. And that's that."

"And you might ask, well, Harris, how would you guarantee this? Expansion of Title IX, a federal civil rights law passed in 1972 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or federally funded programs. Here are a few facts just to put this in context: On average, women earn 80 cents on the dollar to men, according to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, as reliable a source as exists; Women are 23.6 percent more likely to be in poverty than men; and it is estimated that the lifetime cost for only menstruation is over 18,000 dollars, which have the country doesn't have to pay, and is a whole lot of money for one individual."

"Some concerns you might have. It's expensive. The Federal annual budget is over 3 trillion dollars, so in the big scheme of things, this is really not that much money for government. Surely the richest country in the history of the world could afford to make basic menstrual products available, as they do with toilet paper, another basic hygienic product. Toilet paper is expensive too, and it turns out, you need toilet paper much more often than menstrual products. It is cheaper to pay for a few more tampons than to cover an emergency room visit for a woman suffering from Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) from a lack of access to sufficient menstrual products. You may say this is too big government. I would argue that it is not big government providing toilet paper, and once we enact this law, before you know

it, it will be shocking to people that we didn't do this before."

"Having access to hygienic products is a basic sanitary need so those of us who menstruate can stay healthy. When there is not access to appropriate menstrual products, often products are used for too long, which could lead to extreme risk of contracting TSS, or things like brown paper bags, or wash cloths are used in their place, which is not safe."

"I'd ask you to consider, especially if you are not directly affected by the measures in this bill, what this bill might mean to your mothers, or daughters, or partners, and friends. Finally, this bill will be a message to all in our country of the importance of women's health—after all, you wouldn't be here without us. I ask for your support and thank you for your consideration. I yield back the balance of my time to the chair."

THE DALTON MODEL CONGRESS 2019—HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
Name: Rosie Harris.

Title of the Bill: The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019.

Delegation: The Dalton School.

Committee: Education and the Workforce.
Be It Enacted by the Dalton Model Congress . . .

Preamble: Whereas women make up half of the population of the United States, whereas women on average have their period on a monthly basis for 40 years, whereas women on average earn only 80 cents of every dollar men earn for the same work, whereas 13.6% of women live in poverty, whereas women are 23.6% more likely to be in poverty than men, whereas 17.5% of children live in poverty who are disproportionately dependent on women to raise them, whereas menstruation involves costs that generally incur every month, whereas obtaining full equality for women necessitates economic equality, whereas it is estimated that the lifetime cost of a period can be over \$18,000, and whereas toilet paper is available in every public bathroom in the country, be it resolved, that this committee authorizes such sums as necessary so that every public bathroom that provides toilet paper also provide appropriate menstrual products.

Section 1 Short Title: This Act may be cited as the "The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019".

Section 2 Definitions: Accommodations include all public facilities that are accessible to the general public, and provide access to bathrooms with toilets.

Section 2 Federal Accommodations: Every federal public accommodation that provides free toilet paper must also provide free menstrual products.

Sub-Section A: Menstrual products must be refilled as often as toilet paper.

Section 3 State Accommodations: Every state public accommodation that provides free toilet paper, who also provide free menstrual products that are made as available as toilet paper, will be reimbursed in full for the menstrual products.

Sub-Section A: Menstrual products must be refilled as often as toilet paper.

Section 4 Enforcement: Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 shall be expanded to include enforcement of the provisions from Sections 2 and 3.

Section 5 Appropriations: The Committee on Appropriations shall provide such sums as necessary for (1) public accommodations that receive appropriations for toilet paper to be able to meet this new mandate and (2) for the Title IX expansion.

Section 6 Enactment: This bill will be enacted 91 days after passage.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT VAN
SCYOC

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shippensburg Fire Department's Robert "Bobby" Van Scyoc, who recently marked 50 years of service to the Shippensburg community.

Mr. Van Scyoc first joined the Shippensburg Vigilant Hose Company on July 14, 1969. For half a century, he has kept a watchful eye over his neighbors as a first responder and community leader. In addition to his service as a firefighter, Mr. Van Scyoc also is an EMT and a retired Police Sergeant and Dispatcher. Today, he continues to drive fire apparatus to calls and works part-time at Shippensburg Area EMS.

It is my privilege to recognize Mr. Van Scyoc upon this remarkable milestone for his dedication to the Shippensburg community, and I wish him every continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HERBERT
KOHN RECEIVING THE 2019
HENRY W. BLOCH HUMAN RELATIONS
AWARD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Herbert Kohn for being named the recipient of the 2019 Henry W. Bloch Human Relations Award. This award was established in honor of Henry W. Bloch by the Jewish Community Relations Bureau and serves to honor a community member with a passion for community activism and an extraordinary civic presence. Mr. Herbert Kohn personifies the excellence we hope for in community leaders through his selfless character and dedication to pursuing justice for all.

After a courageous early childhood in Europe during World War II, Mr. Kohn escaped to the United States with his family during his third-grade year. After surviving the Holocaust and resettling in Kansas City, Mr. Kohn was fully committed to his educational endeavors. During his time at Paseo High School, Mr. Kohn was selected by his teachers to participate in the Missouri Boys State program. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Michigan, earning his Bachelor of Arts in 1960 and his Juris Doctorate in 1963. Throughout his life, Mr. Herbert Kohn has shown steadfast bravery and devotion to academic excellence even in the face of formidable trials.

Today, Mr. Kohn does exemplary work as a partner at a local law firm, Bryan Cave LLP, where he specializes in corporate law. Kohn's service to the community goes beyond his work as an attorney however. In 1999, Mr.

Kohn served on the transition team for the first female Kansas City, Missouri Mayor, Kay Barnes, and later, on her Charter Review Commission. His collaboration with a number of Kansas City mayors led to a beautiful downtown, a City Pension Plan, and improved early childhood education. Additionally, Mr. Kohn served as a member of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and was selected by Governor Michael Parson to serve as Chairman of the Missouri Gaming Commission. Mr. Kohn's work has resulted in extraordinary benefits to our city, our state, and to countless people from all backgrounds and walks of life.

As one can see, Mr. Kohn's numerous accomplishments have left an indelible impact on his community. His generous and benevolent character is particularly well-reflected via his life-long devotion to the Missouri Boys State program. He has dedicated decades to expanding, improving, and bringing national recognition to the program ever since he was a participant. Two years ago, Missouri Boys State re-named one of its cities to "Kohn City." Moreover, Mr. Kohn served as the Chairman of the Kansas City Art Institute, the Chairman of the Missouri Cancer Commission, a Trustee of the Truman Library Institute, and the Director of the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Foundation. Throughout his extensive career, Mr. Herbert Kohn has devoted himself to institutions and organizations which have tangibly improved the lives of Kansas Citians and those throughout the region.

Madam Speaker, please join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring Mr. Herbert Kohn for being named the recipient of the 2019 Henry W. Bloch Human Relations Award. I stand today to recognize and thank Mr. Kohn for his countless contributions to the Kansas City community and the nation at large.

HONORING MSGT ENRIQUE "RICK"
HERRERA ON HIS 23 YEARS OF
MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Enrique "Rick" Herrera on his 23 years of military service.

Over the years, MSgt Herrera has made immeasurable contributions to our great nation and continues to personify the core U.S. Air Force values of integrity, selfless service, and excellence. He started his career in 1996 as a student in the Combat Patrol Pipeline and retires as a Master Sergeant that has served in many positions across the 724th Special Tactics Group.

Early in his career, MSgt Herrera was deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge with the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron. After being selected for assignment to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, he was deployed twelve times with elite Army and Navy Task Forces to Afghanistan and Iraq in sup-

port of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Inherent Resolve.

MSgt Herrera retires as a decorated military servant and true American hero, having notably received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. Despite all of his accomplishments, he never boasts of his military achievements and instead focuses his energy on his wife Susan and their son Noah.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I know I speak for our entire community when I say we are truly grateful for MSgt Herrera's extraordinary service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Master Sergeant Enrique "Rick" Herrera on his 23 years of military service.

CONGRATULATING NO. 9 MINE &
MUSEUM ON RECEIPT OF THE
TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate and recognize the No. 9 Mine & Museum on being named the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development's Tourism and Entertainment Business of the Year.

Pennsylvania has a long and robust history of coal mining. Our anthracite coal has heated homes across the county, fueled trains, and gave power to industries that helped build our nation. The No. 9 Mine and Museum helps preserve this rich mining heritage for us and future generations to enjoy and remember.

The No. 9 Mine was first opened in 1855 by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company and was the epicenter of mining operations in the Panther Valley. In operation for over a century, from 1855 to 1972, the No. 9 Mine is the world's oldest continuously operated anthracite coal mine.

Today, the mine is a museum and serves as an important reminder of our community's roots and of the resilience and determination of the many mineworkers who came before us.

The No. 9 Mine became a museum when the Panther Creek Valley Foundation took ownership of the property in the 1990's. Through their restoration efforts, the group created a unique, historical attraction, appealing to both locals and tourists alike.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the No. 9 Mine and Museum on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to preserving the history of our community.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, Further Continuing Appropriations Act and Further Health Extenders Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6725–S6773

Measures Introduced: Thirty-six bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2923–2958, and S. Res. 436–444. **Pages S6755–56**

Measures Reported:

S. 860, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–160)

S. 1882, to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–161)

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. (S. Rept. No. 116–162) **Pages S6754–55**

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 75, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3055. **Page S6736**

Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 437, expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month. **Page S6759**

National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 438, expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the

United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. **Pages S6759–60**

Drive Safer Sunday: Senate agreed to S. Res. 439, designating December 1, 2019, as “Drive Safer Sunday”. **Page S6760**

Wreaths Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 440, designating December 14, 2019, as “Wreaths Across America Day”. **Pages S6760–61**

Apollo 12 Moon landing 50th anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 441, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing. **Page S6761**

Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act: Senate passed S. 2193, to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Page S6764**

Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act: Senate passed S. 1430, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees, after agreeing to the committee amendments, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6764–66**

Fischer (for Lankford/Peters) Amendment No. 1251, to make certain corrections. **Page S6766**

Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 900, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the “Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6766–67**

Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2334, to designate the

Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the “Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S6767**

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 2451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”. **Page S6767**

Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 2712, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 887, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Marilyn Monroe Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1252, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”. **Page S6767**

Ritchie Valens Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1253, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Eva G. Hewitt Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1526, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the “Eva G. Hewitt Post Office”. **Page S6767**

Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1844, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the “Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 2151, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”. **Page S6767**

65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Jose Ramos Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3144, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the “Jose Ramos Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3314, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”. **Page S6767**

National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act: Senate passed S. 333, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training. **Page S6768**

State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act: Senate passed S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6768–70**

Fischer (for Peters) Amendment No. 1252, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6769–70**

General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 435, reaffirming the importance of the General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6770**

House Messages:

Further Continuing Appropriations Act and Further Health Extenders Act: By 74 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 365), Senate agreed to McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment Senate to H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, after taking action on the following motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6734–36**

Rejected:

Paul motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Paul Amendment No. 1250, to reduce the

amount appropriated by 1 percent and put the savings towards the Highway Trust Fund and certain Environmental Protection Agency Infrastructure Assistance. (By 73 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 363), Senate tabled the motion.) **Pages S6734–35**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 364), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment Senate to the bill. **Page S6735**

Virginia Beach Strong Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if Senate receives H.R. 4566, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, and the text is identical to the text of S. 2592, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, as introduced, Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4566, the bill be considered read a third time, and Senate vote on passage of the bill; and that if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S6764**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Pages S6767–68**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 7 a.m.; Friday, November 29, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 29, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, December 2, 2019. **Page S6772**

Brouillette Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy. **Pages S6726, S6739**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 74 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 366), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6739**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 2, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, with the post-cloture time on the nomination expiring at 5:30 p.m.; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, November 21, 2019, ripen following disposition of the nomination. **Page S6772**

Komitee Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S6726**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy. **Page S6726**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6726**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6726**

Sinatra Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. **Page S6726**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S6726**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6726**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6726**

Pitlyk Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Pages S6726–27**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. **Page S6727**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6726**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6726**

Cole Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Page S6727**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Page S6727**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6727**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6727**

Huffaker Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. **Page S6727**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Page S6727**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6727**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6727**

Barlow Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Page S6727**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. **Page S6727**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6727**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6727**

Myers Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. **Page S6727**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Pages S6727–28**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6727**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6727**

Lydon Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Pages S6728–34**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. **Page S6728**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6728**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6728**

Duncan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service. **Page S6736**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S6736**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6736**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Ian Paul Steff, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

John E. Kramer, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation.

Joshua A. Deahl, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

Deborah J. Israel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Andrea L. Hertzfeld, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2024.

E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

Ralph Ignatius Sozio, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

Robert Anthony Dixon, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

Thomas Michael O'Connor, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

25 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Pages S6772–73

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jason Myung-Ik Chung, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

John W. Holcomb, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Knut Sveinbjorn Johnson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Steve Kim, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Michelle M. Pettit, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Todd Wallace Robinson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Jennifer P. Togliatti, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service. **Page S6772**

Messages from the House: **Page S6754**

Measures Referred: **Page S6754**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S6754**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6754**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6755**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6756–59**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6752–54**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6762–63**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6763**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6764**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—366) **Pages S6735–36, S6739**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:07 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6772.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FCC SPECTRUM AUCTIONS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded an oversight hearing examine the Federal Communications Commission, focusing on the spectrum auctions program, after receiving testimony from Julius Knapp, Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, and Giulia McHenry, Acting Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, both of the Federal Communications Commission.

FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Federal payments to local governments provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Payments in Lieu of Taxes programs, including S. 430, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 1643, to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and S. 2108, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, after receiving testimony from Denise Flanagan, Director of Budget, Department of the Interior; Allen Rowley, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Mayor Stephen Prysunka, Wrangell,

Alaska; and Justin M. Dilley, Pocahontas County Board of Education, Dunmore, West Virginia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Bernard Maurice Jones II, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Thomas Michael O'Connor, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, and Ralph Ignatius Sozio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York, both of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 5209–5250; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 77; and H. Res. 724–730 were introduced.

Pages H9167–69

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H9170–71

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3614, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ban the use of credit information for most employment decisions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–305);

H.R. 3618, to establish requirements relating to credit scores and educational credit scores, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–306); and

H.R. 3629, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to establish clear Federal oversight of the development of credit scoring models by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–307).

Page H9167

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act: The House passed H.R. 1309, 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 im-

plement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, by a recorded vote of 251 ayes to 158 noes, Roll No. 642.

Pages H9127–45, H9145–54

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Kelly (PA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 188 noes, Roll No. 641.

Pages H9153–54

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–37, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–302, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill.

Pages H9135–38

Agreed to:

Hastings amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that requires covered employers to email their organization's workplace violence prevention plan to the organization's staff, following completion of annual training;

Pages H9138–39

DeSaulnier amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that includes procedures to

provide information about available trauma and related counseling for employees in reporting, incident response, and post-incident investigation procedures;

Page H9139

Levin (MI) amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that requires information about the bill’s anti-retaliation provision to be provided in its required workplace violence and prevention training;

Pages H9144–45

Green (TX) amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that requires the Secretary of Labor to provide an annual report to Congress that would include statistics and a summary from the annual report submitted to the Secretary by employers;

Pages H9145–46

Brown (MD) amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that states that additional training shall be provided for covered employees who work with victims of torture, trafficking, or domestic violence;

Pages H9146–47

Garcia (TX) amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that ensures that the annual evaluations include changes based on informed findings by employers;

Pages H9147–48

Harder amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that ensures that nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or prevent healthcare workers from reporting violent incidents to appropriate law enforcement (by a recorded vote of 414 ayes to 1 no, Roll No. 638);

Pages H9143–44, H9150–51

Wexton amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that ensures that nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or diminish any protections in relevant federal, state or local law related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault (by a recorded vote of 415 ayes to 1 no, Roll No. 639); and

Pages H9148, H9151

Delgado amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that directs OSHA to prioritize providing technical assistance and advice to employers throughout the first year of the Act to ensure businesses are in compliance (by a recorded vote of 242 ayes to 176 noes, Roll No. 640).

Pages H9148–49, H9151–52

Rejected:

Byrne amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–302) that sought to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to promulgate a final standard on workplace violence prevention for health care and social service workers; require OSHA to follow the established rulemaking process (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 238 noes, Roll No. 637).

Pages H9140–43, H9149–50

H. Res. 713, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1309) was agreed to yesterday, November 20th.

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 725, electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Page H9155

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, November 22nd.

Page H9162

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page 9159.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9149–50, H9150–51, H9151, H9151–52, H9153–54, H9154. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE: CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND READINESS IMPACTS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “The Department of Defense Organic Industrial Base: Challenges, Solutions and Readiness Impacts”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Duane A. Gamble, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of the Army; Lieutenant General Donald E. Kirkland, Commander, Air Force Sustainment Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Department of the Air Force; Vice Admiral Thomas Moore, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, Department of the Navy; Vice Admiral G. Dean Peters, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, Department of the Navy; and Major General Joseph F. Shrader, Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command, Headquarters Marine Corps.

BANKING ON YOUR DATA: THE ROLE OF BIG DATA IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force on Financial Technology held a hearing entitled “Banking on Your Data: The Role of Big Data in Financial Services”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY: COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day: Committee on House Administration”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, Chairman Takano, and Representatives Rice of North Carolina, Phillips, Graves of Georgia, and Olson.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 5038, the “Farm Workforce

Modernization Act of 2019”; H.R. 3884, the “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019”; H.R. 5140, the “Satellite Television Community Protection and Promotion Act of 2019”; H.R. 3991, the “Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act of 2019”; and H.R. 5133, the “Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2019”. H.R. 5038, H.R. 3884, H.R. 5140, and H.R. 3991 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 5133 was ordered reported, without amendment.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY: DR. HILL AND MR. HOLMES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Impeachment Inquiry: Dr. Hill and Mr. Holmes”. Testimony was

heard from David A. Holmes, Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine, Department of State; and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 22, 2019**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, November 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1:30 p.m., Friday, November 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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