



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

No. 5

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIC SWALWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### HOW CLOTURE KILLED THE 115TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks after the 2016 election, I warned on this floor that the greatest obstacle to the success of the Republican Congress and the Trump Presidency was the Senate's cloture rule.

Cloture is the Senate rule that requires 60 votes before a bill can be considered. It was originally designed to

protect the minority's right to debate, but it has now degenerated into a very effective way for the minority to prevent any debate. Today, it gives minority Democrats in the Senate the power to summarily reject almost every measure brought to the Senate.

In 2016, the American people elected a Republican President and Republican majorities in both houses of Congress with a simple plea: Make America Great Again. As a practical matter, this meant reviving the economy, balancing the budget, securing our borders, and rescuing our healthcare system. Having given us all the necessary tools, it had every right to expect action.

If the Republican Congress had proven worthy of this trust, history would have looked back on the last 2 years as the turning point when America reclaimed its greatness and entered a new era of prosperity, solvency, and security. The new 116th Congress would be taking office with a clear mandate to build on that success.

Well, the American people got action from the President. They also got action from this House. We sent the Senate over 1,300 bills, fulfilling every promise made to the American people. The Senate acted on fewer than 300.

Now, did the Senate, which absurdly boasts to be the greatest deliberative body in the world, carefully and meticulously deliberate over these measures and ultimately reject them? No. The greatest deliberative body in the world never took them up at all—all for lack of cloture.

That is not the fault of Senate Democrats, who radically abused this rule as part of the resistance. It is the fault of Senate Republicans who let them.

The only major accomplishments were due to rare instances when cloture could be bypassed. The appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court occurred only after Senate Republicans

changed this rule, but only for Supreme Court nominations.

The landmark tax reform bill could be taken up and passed in the Senate only by misusing a budget process called reconciliation, which avoids the cloture rule.

Reconciliation is a once-a-year bill designed to control spending. It isn't subject to the 60-vote requirement, but it can only change laws to conform to spending levels set by the budget.

Even then, this proved a mixed political blessing for Republicans. The limits on deducting State and local taxes were all placed in the bill, solely to conform to reconciliation requirements. Republicans got clobbered in the high-tax States where these provisions proved so unpopular.

The tax cuts triggered such dramatic economic growth that Federal revenues increased, yet the deficit continued to widen. Why? Well, spending exploded, in part because House leaders hijacked reconciliation, the most potent tool to control spending, in order to get around the Senate's cloture rule.

Cloture turned healthcare from a winning to a losing issue for Republicans. House Republicans had proposed comprehensive healthcare reforms that rescued Americans from the bureaucratic labyrinth of ObamaCare, restored their freedom of choice, protected those with preexisting conditions, and provided a supportive tax system to guarantee an affordable health plan for every family.

Yet cloture made a comprehensive bill DOA in the Senate, forcing the House to concoct a hodgepodge measure that could fit within the narrow rules for budget reconciliation. This mangled product that resulted couldn't even muster a Senate majority. Since the replacement bill was never enacted, Democrats could portray it any way they wanted. The same story can be told of border security and funding for the long-promised border wall.

☐ 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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Though majorities in both houses favored funding, cloture gave Senate Democrats the power to run out the clock toward a government shutdown and produce the impasse that we now face today.

Ironically, the political demographics of Senate elections allowed Senate Republicans to increase their majority, while voter frustration decimated their House colleagues.

The 115th Congress now passes into history as Democrats take control of the House and end any chance to fulfill the hopes of 2016. All that is left is Whittier's sad lament: "Of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"

#### END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis in our country, but it is not at our southern border. There is a crisis mounting at every airport, every national park, in the homes of furloughed Federal employees and stop-work Federal contractors across this country, from Los Angeles through Kansas City to Baltimore. It is a crisis that is hurting the lives of countless Americans whose food won't be inspected, whose water may not be clean, whose flight may not be safe, and whose bills may not be paid. It is a crisis of the President's own making.

Right now, we are on the verge of the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history, a shameful display of what happens when the President governs solely to appeal to his political base, rather than on behalf of all Americans.

Why are we here, Mr. Speaker? Because the President has committed himself to a wall that many experts say is ineffective. It is ineffective; it is expensive; and it is downright absurd. It has become a vanity project that began as an applause line in a campaign speech in which then-candidate Trump deemed the entire migration of people from the south rapists and criminals.

It is clear, the wall is the only policy objective that matters to the President, and he is willing to say or do anything to get it. He will push hundreds of thousands of American families into suffering for his wall, and he has gone so far as to threaten us with a declaration of national emergency if he doesn't get his way, a declaration of national emergency not because we are in the middle of one, but, rather, as the President put it, because he can't make a deal.

What is this national emergency on the border that the President is so concerned and afraid of? The past 2 years have seen border crossings drop to a historic low. Most undocumented immigrants in this country are visa overstays.

Mr. Speaker, 0.1 percent of all Border Patrol arrests in 2018 were members of

MS-13. Yes, that is a problem that we are sadly and tragically familiar with in Maryland, but that doesn't make it a national emergency.

Most drugs smuggled through the southern border come through official ports of entry, not between them. And despite the President's false claims, there aren't thousands of terrorists coming across the border.

Customs and Border Protection, an agency in which the President has considerable confidence, said they encountered six people with names that are like those on the terrorist watch list. Last year, more suspected foreign terrorists were apprehended at the northern border than at our southern border.

Sure, we need strong border security, and not just at our southern border. But the President knows this isn't a national emergency but, perhaps, an alarm to his own political future.

What will hurt our security and create a real crisis is if he takes money away from the Armed Forces to fund the wall. If the President used funding from the military construction budget, facilities used by our men and women in uniform—like shipyards and aircraft hangars, ammunition supply points and training ranges, and childcare centers and family housing—those would continue to slide into disrepair. This would impact military readiness and the quality of life for our military families.

Or the President could decide to use money from infrastructure projects from the Army Corps of Engineers, projects meant to protect cities like Houston or Ellicott City in Maryland from flooding and would threaten tens of thousands of Americans who may find themselves in a real emergency during the next hurricane season.

The use of these authorities, like the deployment of our troops to the border, is irresponsible, unnecessary, and misguided.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have a crisis on the border. We have a crisis in the Oval Office. To President Trump, the wall, his symbol of division, matters more than substantial improvements to border security and true comprehensive immigration reform.

If President Trump wants to address the real crisis in our country, let's end this shutdown and pay the people who work for the people. Let's reduce our silent backlog, protect Dreamers, and fix our dysfunctional immigration system. We need real action and a bipartisan solution.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the small business development centers located throughout my district and

throughout the country. These development centers are Statewide, nationally accredited programs that provide one-on-one consulting, training, and information resources to empower new and existing small businesses.

They are a public-private partnership between the Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and universities and colleges across the Commonwealth.

Clarion University and Penn State both have fantastic small business development centers whose mission is to provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge needed to make smart decisions and to see their businesses grow and prosper.

Over the past few months, I have received many letters in support of small business development centers from constituents who have utilized these services to start or maintain a small business of their own.

Lisa from Smethport wrote that, after growing up working in her family's restaurant, it had always been a dream to operate her own restaurant. Through the help of the Clarion University Small Business Development Center, her dream became a reality.

Joseph from Punxsutawney worked with the center to help manage his business's financial records and receive a line of credit. He wrote that the information and advice they provided helped him make critical business decisions with confidence.

And Emily from Franklin recently opened up a charming bed and breakfast after working with the development center staff to write up a business plan and organize the financial aspects of her business. She hopes to continue working with the development center and said she truly feels as though they want her to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the stories I have received, and I thank all of my constituents that took the time to share their stories with me. The success stories of small business owners that work with development centers are endless. They have greatly helped economic progress in my district.

The Clarion University center helped start up 55 new businesses in 2017 and supported more than 500 constituents.

Nationally, small businesses make up 99.7 percent of U.S. employer firms. In 2018, there were more than 30 million small businesses that employed 58 million people.

The development center program, operated through the Small Business Administration, was allocated \$130 million for fiscal year 2018. Through the continued funding of small business development centers, paired with the passage of probusiness legislation like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, entrepreneurship can continue to thrive in Pennsylvania and all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, that is something every American can applaud and that we should be proud of.

## END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, a TSA agent along with his wife had to sell plasma to make ends meet.

A Federal law enforcement employee just received an eviction notice after trying to explain the shutdown to his apartment manager. In a few days, he and his family will be kicked out of their apartment if they do not receive a paycheck in time to pay their rent.

A counselor at a Federal prison is already working under stressful conditions and not being paid. She and her coworkers wonder how they can make their Federal student loan payments when they aren't getting paychecks.

Members of the Coast Guard are working hard every day in dangerous conditions to keep our coastal communities safe, not knowing how they will pay their rent or other bills without their next paycheck.

Air traffic controllers work in a very complex field that requires concentration and dedication to keep the skies safe, and they are expected to do that without getting paid.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because these Oregonians and hundreds of thousands of people across the country like them are suffering as a result of President Trump's government shutdown.

For 20 days, the President has held the American people hostage over his campaign slogan to build a wall along the southern border, a wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. In those 20 days, I have seen firsthand how harmful this shutdown has been for Oregonians.

I have spoken with individuals from Astoria, Sheridan, Portland, and beyond who are worried: How are they going to pay their rent? How are they going to afford childcare or continue to pay their student loans if their paycheck does not come through on Friday?

Missing even one paycheck can have catastrophic consequences. It is far too high a cost for these dedicated Federal employees to pay for a policy fight that they did not start and have no power to end. This is unconscionable.

Hardworking Oregonians should not lose their homes or be forced to sell plasma because the Federal Government is shut down, especially when they are continuing to report to work and protect our country without pay.

Since taking the majority last week, the House has taken swift action to reopen the government. We have passed bipartisan bills to fund government operations and pay workers who have been furloughed.

The American people have been held hostage long enough. It is past time for the President to abandon his ill-conceived border wall and reopen the Federal Government before more people are hurt.

## U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to read that President Trump has reflected on his initial instinct to pull our 2,000 soldiers out of eastern Syria based on his conclusion that ISIS is defeated, and, instead, he is ordering a withdrawal at a proper pace consistent with American objectives.

To meet our goals of a safe American homeland and progress towards regional stability, America must first develop a strategy to eliminate ISIS from northeast Syria along the lower Euphrates valley at the border of Syria and Iraq.

This plan must include a productive role for our partner and ally, the Kurds. It is not in America's interest to abandon our long friends, the Kurds, to Turkish treachery and annihilation.

Recent open-source data suggests there are 30,000 ISIS-related fighters in the lower Euphrates valley. With our allies, we must press this villainous band to its inglorious end.

Our leaving with no plan will squander our immense success in cutting off funding and winning back hard-fought territorial gains from the occupation of ISIS.

Second, America must block Iran. A key here is a small base and deconfliction zone at al-Tanf, a small force of 200 anchors that base along the key highway between Damascus and Baghdad. Not only is this a strategic imperative, Mr. Speaker, but 50,000 refugees are tenuously housed in this deconfliction zone at Rukban. Withdraw, and death awaits them.

Neighboring Jordan can take no more. We must ensure that an allied force remains at al-Tanf, blocking the Iranian-planned autobahn being considered from Tehran to Damascus. Withdraw, Mr. President, and you will leave Israel fully encircled by its greatest enemy, the Ayatollah in Tehran.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, America must achieve peace and stability in Syria. Our small elite presence, our supply lines, and our air superiority offer pressure on the murderous regime in Damascus to reach a settlement to return Syria to peace and return millions of refugees to their towns and ancestral homes.

Leave, Mr. President, and you will squander the great moral victory of your strategic strikes against Assad from his illegal use of chemical weapons and barrel bombs.

Your early decisive actions made our friends, villagers huddling in fear and from the Euphrates to Idlib, shout with joy. "America is back," they shouted.

Leave, Mr. President, with no plan and no strategy, and they will hang their heads as they did during President Obama's shameful abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, this unfortunate chapter unfolding in the tragedy known as Syria foreshadows an unflattering

flashback to a time long ago when Great Britain abandoned a role of stability in the Holy Land and India.

In 1948, Churchill rose in the House to oppose Prime Minister Atlee's own unplanned precipitous withdrawal from the Holy Land, saying:

A time limit imposed—a kind of guillotine—will certainly prevent the full, fair, and reasonable discussion of the great, complicated issues that are involved.

Indeed, as Churchill foresaw, mayhem, terror, and destruction were the result of Britain's precipitous withdrawal.

It is said that history doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme. Mr. President, let's not repeat this historical mistake nor let our actions even result in a rhyme.

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we know the President doesn't like to read, but I think perhaps his acting chief of staff did.

There was something called the Maginot Line the French built between World War I and World War II, an impenetrable defense against the German invasion. Unfortunately, the Germans went around it.

Here we are in the 21st century. The President wants \$5.7 billion to build a wall along part of the Mexican border. Now, his own acting chief of staff, when he was a Member of Congress and perhaps speaking more freely, said:

You go under, you go around, you go through. What they need is more manpower and more technology.

That is Mick Mulvaney, well, saying something different now, I guess, because he wants to keep his job. But the point is, he had an honest opinion then, and that is the way it will work.

Here are a few things:

You can go over walls and fences—oh, by the way, we just had a demonstration today that the steel slats the President now wants can be cut with a handsaw.

Tunnels, drugs come through that way and people are smuggled in that way.

Oh, they are using the squad copters. You can buy those pretty cheap—oh, and then some more primitive device over here.

But, actually, the flood of drugs coming into the United States comes in right here, legal border crossings.

A couple of problems with that right now:

First off, the people who are manning the border crossings aren't getting paid.

Secondly, they don't have enough technology or the capability of inspecting more than 10 percent of the vehicles that come through. So for the cartels: "Hey, what the heck. We just lost a semi." What do they care? Pocket change. "Couple of hundred thousand

bucks, million bucks—whatever. We don't care." They just try all the time.

And we don't have the defenses we need. We could invest there, but, no, the President wants the wall.

Now, there is another way that drugs are coming into this country. Last year, the Coast Guard intercepted \$5.6 billion—sound familiar? \$5.6 billion, almost as much as the President wants for the wall—worth of illegal drugs being shipped via the ocean into the United States.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard testified 2 years ago, they are only intercepting 20 percent of the known shipments because their medium endurance cutters are half a century old. They don't have enough helicopters. They don't have enough air support. They don't have enough fast-pursuit boats.

But, no, we are going to invest in a stupid static way. They can go around it in the oceans. They can go around it in the desert. They can go under it. They can go over it.

And the people who are really doing the job, like the Coast Guard, guess what. They are not getting paid either. The first line of defense, Customs and Border Protection—not being paid. The Coast Guard—not being paid.

There is a very long list of Federal employees who are critical to national security who are not being paid today and don't have the tools they need. But the President wants to invest in a stupid static wall because they promised one.

And, oh, by the way, Mexico is going to pay for it, which, of course, they aren't.

You know, yesterday the tip sheet from the Coast Guard support group, the Trump administration, had helpful tips for coasties: you could hold a garage sale; you could perhaps dog walk; you could register as a mystery shopper.

They actually posted this for people who are the first line of defense in the United States of America, instead of saying: "Put them back to work and pay them, pay them for defending America."

Now, the President says he can relate to this. He understands. Yes, when he was in business, he stiffed a whole lot of people, and he is stiffing 800,000 Federal employees right now.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. BUD PETERSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize G.P. "Bud" Peterson, who will retire as president of Georgia Tech in the summer of 2019.

After 10 years serving Georgia Tech, President Peterson is certainly leaving it in a better place than he found it:

Under his leadership, Georgia Tech became the first university in a decade to be invited to join the Association of American Universities;

Research funding increased and nearly doubled;

The size of enrollment grew, including the number of women enrolled at the university.

And these are only a few of President Peterson's most notable impacts on campus.

Thank you, President Peterson, for your service to Georgia Tech as a premier research university that cultivates innovative leaders in Georgia, across the U.S., and throughout the world. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

And to Georgia Tech, I wish you the best of luck in your search for a new president.

#### NATIONAL PHARMACIST DAY 2019

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Pharmacist Day 2019 on January 12.

According to Census data, there are over 200,000 pharmacists across the U.S., with another 25,000 pharmacy aids. Each day, these pharmacists are providing vaccines for a number of illnesses and carefully counseling patients on prescriptions to help heal sickness and reduce pain.

Through this work, pharmacists are considered one of the top three most trusted professions in America. Today, and throughout the rest of the year, I encourage everyone to visit your pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, and get to know the people who provide your medicine and work to keep you healthy.

As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize the work these individuals are doing every day to serve their local communities across the country.

#### ABBAS FAMILY MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand before this House heartbroken.

This past weekend, tragedy struck our Dearborn community as we learned of the death of all five members of the Abbas family. They were killed by a drunk driver while driving back from a family vacation in Florida, and their loss has devastated our community in ways that you cannot imagine.

In every sense of the word, they were our community. The parents were born and raised there. Rima served many as a respected doctor at Beaumont and had just been promoted to head all of the doctors at the hospital. And Issam had a successful career as a lawyer and real estate agent. Their children—Ali, age 13; Isabelle, age 12; and Giselle, age 7—were gifts from God and the center of their parents' lives, and so many other families in Dearborn.

Their family, their very extended family was devoted to everything that they did. Their absence stunned this community and is felt deeply and emotionally.

Thousands attended one of the memorial services this week and then the

funeral. Many in attendance chose to remember the good memories—the smiles, the laughs, their careers, their deep connections to friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and friends—but some came up to me and spoke very honestly. I was struck by the children and grown men who came up to me in tears, asking me why we hadn't done something to stop drunk driving.

A young girl, a classmate, who will never see her friend again, had channeled her grief into research. She came up to me and asked why, when the technology exists, has Congress never done anything to mandate interlock breathalyzers to prevent this kind of senseless accident from ever happening again.

□ 1030

She wasn't alone.

Elders in the community had also researched this subject, and the senior men, in their very deep way, asked me why nothing had been done, why weren't we using and mandating technology that would save lives. And I had no good answer.

Too many lives across this country are taken because of drunk driving. In 2016, 10,497 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. That is 28 percent of all traffic-related deaths.

The young girl was right and the elders of the community were correct that technology does exist to stop drunk driving once and for all, and Congress has never had the will to take it on.

I have to go home tomorrow to a community that is still grieving. I can't look them in the eye unless we are really willing to try to do something.

This week I am introducing legislation in memory of the Abbas family that would mandate all new vehicles be equipped with interlock breathalyzer devices. This will stop intoxicated drivers from ever starting a vehicle and keep them off the roads.

If we can keep one person from dying on the roads and make people think twice before getting behind the wheel when they shouldn't, even when they are buzzed and think they will be okay, then won't we have been successful?

I know that some will say: "This is too much of a burden. It won't work. Why should we have to do that?"

Well, I am going to look them in the eye and tell them why no community should ever have to feel what our community is still feeling this week.

I will work with all my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, and the auto industry to save lives. It is our moral imperative.

Nothing will bring back the Abbas family, but their lives were too important to forget. Our community will deeply miss them, but we need to make sure that their death was not in vain. We must dedicate ourselves in their memory and those of others we know to try to prevent another life being lost this way senselessly.

## RECOGNIZING BILL SAMPLE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation recognized National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to express our gratitude to the brave women and men who sacrifice for our safety each and every day.

I would like to recognize the memory and legacy of one law enforcement officer who left an indelible mark on families in Bucks County and beyond. Bill Sample, a Chalfont resident who passed away in 2014, was a Philadelphia police officer who founded the Sunshine Foundation in 1976.

Based in Southampton, the Sunshine Foundation, which seeks to help chronically ill, physically challenged, and abused children from underserved families, was inspired by Bill working protective duty at St. Christopher's Children's Hospital. To date, the Sunshine Foundation has answered over 40,000 dreams of deserving children.

Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of our entire community when I say that I am thankful and we are all thankful for our law enforcement community and for officers like Bill Sample. We want to thank him and all law enforcement officers for their service and applaud the work of the Sunshine Foundation.

## RECOGNIZING CALEB BYELICH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young citizen in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who at only 8 years old is already making a substantial impact in the lives of the underserved in our community.

Caleb Byelich, a student at Neidig Elementary School in Quakertown, held a hot cocoa stand last month with the goal of raising \$100 for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter, a program that advocates for the homeless in upper Bucks County.

To say that Caleb's stand was a success, Mr. Speaker, would be an understatement. Through selling hot cocoa and with the help of additional donations that came in days later, Caleb was able to raise \$1,715 for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter.

We applaud Caleb for his remarkable work, and I look forward to seeing his accomplishments in the years to come. We would also like to thank his parents, Loren and Alicia, for instilling in him the values of service and compassion.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Pastor David Heckler of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church for his coordination of the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter.

## RECOGNIZING VINCENT KABASO

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, who recently accomplished a major feat in his industry.

Vincent Kabaso of Ambler has become the first Professional Golf Association member from his home nation of Zambia, a country of 17 million people. Vinny currently works as a golf professional at Talamore Country Club in Ambler.

Vinny's love of golf came at a very young age. After graduating from high school in 2004, he studied in England and Scotland before becoming a coach on the Zambia national golf team. He later came to the United States where he served as a golf professional in Connecticut before moving to Pennsylvania.

In addition to his golf talent, Vinny has also founded a nonprofit organization and he is also an author. He established the Raised by the World Foundation, which assists students at the University of Zambia and provides used equipment for young golfers.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud this major professional achievement of Vincent Kabaso, and wish his wife, Hannah, and daughter, JoAnna, all the best. Our community appreciates their service and their accomplishments.

## END THE SHUTDOWN AND REOPEN GOVERNMENT NOW

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say this is the first time that I have addressed my constituents and my colleagues from the floor of this House.

Under normal circumstances, I would be talking about creating new jobs and new opportunities for my constituents in New Hampshire. I would be talking about plans to rebuild our roads and bridges, to step up our response to the opioid crisis. I would be sharing and discussing ideas and proposals that can improve people's lives and move America forward. But today's circumstances in this brand-new Congress are anything but normal.

Instead of talking about how we can reform government, I am here to plead with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to simply reopen government.

Mr. Speaker, today marks day 20 of the shutdown. After nearly 3 weeks without a paycheck, Federal employees across the country are grappling with how they will pay their rent, their mortgage, and their utility bills. They are anxious about putting food on the table and providing for their kids.

With no end in sight, thousands of workers in my State of New Hampshire are facing tough questions. What if the shutdown lasts months or even years, as this President has threatened? What will that mean for their savings, for their jobs, and for their families? Will they be forced to leave Federal service simply to stay afloat?

The treatment of our dedicated Federal workers is completely unacceptable. As someone who operated a fam-

ily business with 230 workers, I can tell you that shutting your doors and cutting off pay for your employees is no way to run a business. It is certainly no way to run the greatest country on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, so today I am lifting up the stories of everyday Granite Staters, who are suffering because of this senseless shutdown.

I am here on behalf of a furloughed IRS worker from Sandown. Her bank is denying her the interest-free loan they promised Federal workers, because the furlough letter the IRS gave her was too vague. And, of course, there is no one around at the IRS to write her a new one.

I am here on behalf of an air traffic controller from Derry who just transferred airports and has been told she may not get back pay because she was furloughed prior to starting her new assignment.

I am here on behalf of an FAA worker from Hampton who is being forced to take unpaid leave to look after his wife who is going through a health emergency. He is worrying about how he can possibly care for his spouse without knowing when his next paycheck is going to arrive.

These workers from my district deserve better from our Nation's leaders, and so do each and every one of the American people.

This fall, voters sent an unmistakable message: the way Washington works simply isn't working for them. They want less drama and dysfunction, more compromise and more common sense. They want leaders who will put the national interest before their own partisan political interest.

Instead of business as usual in Washington, it is time for Washington to start operating more like a responsible business that looks out for its workers. That means ending the shutdown now and making sure all of our outstanding Federal employees and contractors are fully compensated.

We have got to do better. For the sake of the more than 2,400 Federal workers in New Hampshire who are currently furloughed or working without pay and the more than 800,000 across this country, let's close this dark chapter by immediately reopening the doors of our government.

## DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT EXPANSION

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a very special and personally meaningful victory for residents in the Coachella Valley in my district.

I rise to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District.

You see, when I was a young boy growing up in a farm-worker trailer park in Coachella, I saw the dignity of

good, humble people who loved God, worked hard, and struggled to make a better life for themselves and their children.

I also saw their needless pain and suffering due to their poverty and lack of healthcare resources.

I vowed at the age of four to become a doctor and serve them.

As a freshman pre-med student at UCLA, I stayed awake at night on the top bunk bed of my tiny dorm room thinking about the difference I would one day make.

After graduating from Harvard's medical, government, and public health schools, I returned home as an emergency medicine physician as promised.

I rolled up my sleeves, organized, and went to trailer parks, rural community parks, and the poorest communities to help.

I saw familiar faces with familiar stories of suffering still living in poverty and resource-poor communities.

That is why I founded the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative in 2010, along with my wife, Monica, and our good friend Chauncey Veatch, to address our local healthcare access crisis.

We produced a report and a strategic improvement plan. Our most important solution was the expansion of a healthcare district.

Today, I am very happy to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District to cover all medically underserved communities in the valley.

It is significant, because the district has an annual multimillion dollar budget that funds healthcare and public health programs that improve the public's health.

That means more providers caring for more patients and providing much-needed services like pediatric specialty care, mental health, veterans' health, senior services, and provider pipeline programs.

It is proof that good things happen when good people come together to do good work.

I would like to thank California Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia for answering the call and stepping up to be a champion for the expansion of the district.

He got the bill to put expansion on the ballot passed into law, and together, we helped build local support by putting out fires and persuading others of the big idea.

I also want to thank Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez. When the expansion of the healthcare district was under threat, Supervisor Perez and I worked closely to convince other county supervisors how much our communities would gain in both improved health outcomes and increased economic activity.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the expansion.

There were many other champions who pulled their weight and got the job done.

Thank you to the leadership of the Desert Healthcare District itself, including the President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Les Zendle, previous CEOs Kathy Greco and Herb Schultz, and Interim CEO Chris Christensen.

Thank you to board members Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Kay Hazen, and Carole Rogers, who voted in favor of expansion, and the many, many other staff members who have helped ensure this advocacy ran smoothly.

Several key healthcare organizations were instrumental in this success.

As the largest provider for the east valley, Tenet Healthcare has been enormously supportive by prioritizing the health of their patients above all else.

Thank you to Borrego Community Health Foundation for your generosity and leadership to help create this victory.

Thank you to Planned Parenthood for your tireless work, and thank you to Building Healthy Communities, Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo, and Eisenhower Medical Center.

Thank you to James Williamson, who led the campaign.

Thank you to Barbara Fields, Juan Armenta, Mary English, Walter Clark, Oscar Armijo, Richard Meyer, and Jack Marco, whose generosity never wavered throughout this journey.

Thank you to the voters who approved the expansion measure by an incredibly large margin.

Thank you for helping to make the dream I had as a boy from a farm-worker trailer park a reality.

Together, we are improving lives and making a difference.

□ 1045

#### NINETY YEARS A PREACHER

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and one of the most revered ministers of the gospel that the Chicago metropolitan area has ever known.

Reverend James Bass was born on May 7, 1920, to the late Frank and Hattie Bell Bass in a rural Mississippi town.

James began school at the age of 6 in a little church house near Sunflower River Road, where he attended with his two brothers and one sister. His first teacher, Mr. Lee, taught all of the classes that were in session when the farming seasons were not in force.

As a little boy, James loved playing marbles, pitching horseshoes, and playing church, with him preaching. He also would preach the funeral for any of the animals that died and became known as the boy preacher.

Every Sunday, James attended church with his family in their mule-driven wagon. In 1929, he officially joined church after sitting on the

mourners bench during a revival. He continued to grow and develop, got a job at the church as custodian, and attended and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School in Ruleville, Mississippi.

In 1938, James revealed his calling and preached his first sermon as a full-fledged minister at the age of 18.

On December 7, 1941, James was drafted into the military and served 3 years in the U.S. Army during World War II. He carried no weapon and continued his ministerial work.

After being discharged, he returned home and enrolled at Tougaloo College in 1948, majoring in history. He attended the Mississippi seminary in Jackson in 1951. He became pastor of the Mt. Israel Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where he sponsored a radio broadcast for senior citizens and those who were sick and shut in.

In December of 1955, James was invited to Detroit to preach a revival at Canaan Baptist Church. On the way back, he stopped in Chicago to visit his brother and sister and was honored to preach at the Greater Open Door Baptist Church.

In August of 1956, Reverend Bass organized a small mission. The mission grew, and the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September of 1956.

He returned to Chicago and commuted between Chicago and Mississippi for 6 years, and, after fasting and praying, he decided that his type of ministry really needed to be in a large urban city.

In 1967, Reverend Bass and Helyn Maxine Julius were united in holy matrimony and were blessed with two children, Vincent in 1968 and Vikkeda in 1970.

Under Reverend Bass' leadership, Mt. Olive grew into a substantial Baptist church, with significant influence in the community.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came to Chicago and lived on the West Side, Reverend James Bass was there with him and stood shoulder-to-shoulder when others sleekeed away or refused to stand.

Reverend Bass was known as an activist, independent-minded preacher who used his pulpit effectively to foster something called liberation theology. He will be remembered as one who knew that the doors of the church must be open both ways: inside so that people could come and be spiritually nurtured, but also outside so that they could use the information for the benefit of themselves and their communities.

For more than 90 years, Reverend James Bass preached what he called the gospel. He was an effective messenger, and what a messenger he was. May his soul rest in peace.

#### HONORING JANET WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the prodigious 24-year public service career of supervisor Janet Wolf, and a good friend, in Santa Barbara County of my district.

A southern California native, Janet Wolf earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, my alma mater as well. She then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles, to earn her master's degree and teaching credential.

In 1983, Janet began working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. In 1987, she opened her own business, with offices both in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, California. She continued her work and leadership in that field for over 20 years.

Janet Wolf began her service as an elected official in 1993, when she was first elected to the Goleta School Board, where she served three terms, equaling 12 years. She went on to be elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, where she also served three terms.

During her tenure, her accomplishments were numerous, including initiating the Eastern Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee, steering completion of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan, expanding library funding, and advocating for the construction of a state-of-the-art emergency operations center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my former colleagues in Santa Barbara County in celebrating the exemplary 24-year career of my former colleague, supervisor Janet Wolf, in her public service. Her leadership and commitment to her constituents has been both exceptional and unprecedented. I congratulate and wish Janet and her family the best in her well-deserved retirement and all future endeavors.

#### REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night, there was a prime-time television speech from the Oval Office, which appealed to fear, prejudice, and anger. The argument was for a border wall by stereotyping and demonizing people coming to America seeking asylum, safety, and refuge from the violence caused by the war on drugs this administration is escalating in Central and South America.

With provocative anecdotes about violence and fear-mongering rhetoric, he used the word "illegal" 12 times throughout the entire speech, which was undertaken amidst what is shaping up to be the longest government shutdown in the Nation's history. Never once did he mention the Federal workers who won't receive a paycheck this week—not once.

His purpose was to create a state of anxiety about our national security in

an effort to convince Republican Members of Congress and the American people to stay with him on his narcissistic quest for billions of dollars to build his big, beautiful wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, but now he is demanding that the American people pay for it. That doesn't add up, ladies and gentlemen.

What is not understood is that we are not a country that cowers or bends in dread to a hostage taker. To quote President Truman: "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

The job at hand for this President right now, and for this Congress, is to reopen the government. Then we can all go to work to address skyrocketing drug prices and ensure affordable healthcare.

For the people, we must go to work creating high-wage jobs and fixing our Nation's decaying infrastructure. For our children and our grandchildren, we must build a greener economy and prioritize protecting our planet. These are meaningful and worthy goals. Our job is not to waste billions on an ineffective border wall while spreading xenophobic lies.

Numerous disingenuous statistics were used the other night to back up his claims of a crisis. Here are some statistics, based on facts, to clarify the falsehoods perpetuated on the American people in that Oval Office speech:

One, the truth is that immigration from the southern border has significantly decreased in the last 10 years, disproving what was said. This gentleman wants us to think that this Nation is being overrun. In 2006, there were more than 1 million unauthorized immigrants apprehended at the southern border, but, in 2018, there were less than 400,000.

Two, immigration does not strain our economy and public resources. In fact, immigrants added an estimated \$2 trillion to the United States GDP in 2016. Additionally, unauthorized immigrants contributed significantly to Medicare and Social Security. From 2000 to 2011, they contributed \$35.1 billion more to Medicare than they withdrew.

Finally, of the 361,993 unauthorized immigrants apprehended by September of fiscal year 2018, less than 1 percent had a violent criminal record. Studies have also proven that immigrants do not increase local crime rates, and they are less likely to cause crime or be incarcerated as our citizens.

President Trump's border wall concept was not created by law enforcement specialists, and his justification for wasting taxpayer money on a wall is not based on sound argument. This idea began where most of the President's ideas are born, and that is on the campaign trail. It is an idea unworthy of consideration from Congress. Our constituents and our country deserve better.

Trump has built his political career by demonizing and stereotyping many

different groups of people. His speech Tuesday night was no different.

We, as Americans, cannot fall prey to his fear-mongering, and we cannot allow President Trump to hold Federal workers hostage. Let's go to work and reopen this government now.

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

#### COAST GUARD SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some very, very sad news. On Tuesday night, the *Mary B II*, a crab boat out of Newport, Oregon, capsized while crossing the Yaquina Bay bar.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard responded heroically to assist the boat, battling seas that were 12 to 14 feet in height. Unfortunately, the crew of three died.

It was actually to be Josh Porter's last trip on that boat. He had a different job.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, I want to convey my deepest condolences to the crews, the family, the friends, and, frankly, the community for their immense loss. The tragedy illustrates the courageous and perilous work that our Coast Guard members perform daily and how vital their services are for these communities.

I am proud to lend my support to legislative efforts that make sure these men and women actually receive their pay for this dangerous work that they perform on our behalf.

As we enter almost 3 weeks under a partial shutdown of the government, I know, for many of our valuable public servants, their resources are stretched thin. They will start missing paychecks because of the failures of the Federal Government. They continue to admirably serve throughout this shutdown, and we must ensure they don't suffer because of our failures.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President and Congress to take up the bills the Senate and House have passed and reopen the United States Government.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly deliver my first floor speech as the new Representative for Texas' 16th Congressional District.

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, a resilient, beautiful community along the U.S.-Mexico border, I am a proud fronteriza and know firsthand the realities of the border.

That is why I have been profoundly disturbed by the rhetoric and policies

from this administration. I will use my time to tell you the truth about the border, the opportunity she represents, and the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

El Paso, like other border communities, is one of the safest communities in the country, with a rich history made strong by our bicultural, binational character. Our people are generous, compassionate, and kind.

We share a border with our sister city, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This border unites our families and our values, and it promotes commerce and trade. The border has never been safer or more secure.

El Paso already has a wall, but we were safe long before it was constructed. The truth is that additional border barriers will not address the real challenges that we face. Instead, I hope to work with my colleagues in this Congress to achieve comprehensive immigration reform, address the root causes of migration, and value immigrants as critical to building our economy and our country.

According to the Pew Research Center, there were an estimated 10.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States in 2016. Some came when they were small children, seeking refuge in our country, and, today, have limited protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Others have been here for decades under temporary protected status, establishing businesses and cultivating deep roots in communities across the Nation.

It is unsafe for them to return home because of ongoing strife in their home countries, but this administration decided to terminate protections for them anyway. The majority of others live in the shadows, afraid to avail themselves to assistance because of our current immigration climate.

Life for immigrants and asylum-seeking families, unfortunately, has gotten increasingly worse since January 20, 2017. This administration has cruelly separated a reported 2,654 families at the border, and these are only the families that we know of.

It has built tent prisons for children; teargassed immigrants near ports of entry, including many women and children; criminalized migration and prioritized detention; and attempted to drastically curtail the number of immigrants coming into our country.

Further, this administration's unlawful asylum ban on migrants who do not enter at ports of entry has strained our border crossings. Due to metering at ports, a practice that limits the number of people who may enter the U.S. each day, families are sometimes pushed out to more dangerous and deadly crossings.

I hope we will investigate whether metering contributed to the tragic deaths of two young Guatemalan children, Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez. These policies and practices are inhumane and un-American.

Building walls and sowing hate divide us as a nation. Instead, we must focus on reforming our immigration system to ensure a safe and humane process.

For example, we must create a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients; make investments in additional personnel and infrastructure at our ports of entry where most illegal drugs flow; hire more immigration judges and grant them Article I independence in order to address the backlog of cases and ensure due process; overhaul training for CBP and ICE agents that will boost safety and increase oversight, transparency, and accountability; and end the criminalization of migration, especially that of asylum-seeking families.

Above all, families belong together and should not be detained, especially when there are cost-effective, humane alternatives.

Finally, for any of my colleagues who think that the border is unsafe, I invite you to my district to see it for yourself.

#### END SHUTDOWN AND PAY COAST GUARD MEMBERS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reintroduce my first bill, which was introduced at the end of the 115th Congress, the Continuing Appropriations for the Coast Guard Act. I am doing this on behalf of Janeen and her family, constituents from Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Janeen is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 12. Her husband of 15 years is a Coast Guard member. Until recently, they were focused on what most families across our country focus on: family time, work, balancing their checkbook to pay their mortgage and bills, enjoying the holidays together, and hoping to celebrate a new year.

All of that changed this past December when a partisan fight in Washington, over which they had no control, suddenly threw their family's entire existence into question.

Because the Coast Guard falls within the Department of Homeland Security, one of the agencies that has not been funded, Janeen's family and 42,000 others, including 320 Pennsylvanians, have been left to fend for themselves.

They received a one-time payment from the Coast Guard's emergency fund, equivalent to half a paycheck. But the Coast Guard doesn't have any additional funds on hand, so they have been advised to hold garage sales and take up dog walking for extra income.

My bill would fund the Coast Guard until an agreement is reached to fully fund the government, ensuring that Coast Guard members receive their paychecks during the entire shutdown.

I am proud to have the support of some of my Republican colleagues, including Mr. FITZPATRICK from Pennsylvania, and I hope that a bipartisan coa-

lition of Members in both Chambers can urgently pass this bill.

It is important to take a step back and remind ourselves of what is at stake for Janeen's family and thousands like them. As long as the government is shut down, and until this bill is passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, Janeen's husband won't get a paycheck on the 15th of this month.

Already, their family has been forced to dip into their savings and emergency funds just to buy groceries and keep the lights on. It is about a 70-mile drive from home to the base each way, so Janeen's husband is not only not getting paid, he is actually losing money to go to work every day.

As the daughter of a man who spent his entire career in the Air Force, I must say, this is a shameful way to treat men and women who have devoted their lives to serving our country and the families who serve and sacrifice among them.

For their sake and for the sake of the security of our country, we cannot let toxic hyperpartisanship keep an entire branch of the United States military from receiving pay.

We should be talking about funding more effective technology and infrastructure to protect our country, not about a border wall that will do nothing to stop the incursion of illegal drugs into our country. The Coast Guard is our most effective method of stopping drug runners.

In Janeen's words: "If my husband doesn't show up for work, he is AWOL." That is the reality for our men and women in uniform. The very least they should be able to expect from their elected representatives is that we have their backs and that they will get the support they need no matter what the politics are.

This is not about party or ideology. It is not about scoring points in Washington or on cable news shows. Ultimately, Janeen and her family, and everyone like them, just want to see their government live up to its most basic responsibilities, because as Janeen tells her kids: "When you say you are going to do something, you make a promise."

Servicemembers like Janeen's husband made a promise to defend our Nation when they took their oath. They have never let us down. Every single day, through every challenge and hardship, they have kept their promise and done everything expected of them and more. But during this shutdown, their government has failed to keep its promise to them.

Janeen's family and other Coast Guard families need us right now. Through our actions by getting this bill through the House of Representatives, the Senate, and to the President's desk, we can show them that we take care of our own and that we honor selfless service in this country more than partisanship.



## END THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a crisis that is gripping our Nation. This crisis is impacting the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of hardworking men and women, such as Border Patrol agents, TSA agents, national park rangers, janitors, machinists, and many more.

The crisis I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, is the reckless government shutdown that now has gone into its third week.

We are the greatest country in the world. This should never, ever happen in this country. It has left Americans without paychecks, forcing many of them to seek donations from family, friends, and strangers just to make ends meet.

In Arizona, my constituents have reached out to share their stories. One Federal prison employee told my office that she planned to take out a loan on their retirement in order to pay for groceries, bills, and health insurance. Another, a scientist based in Arizona and working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote to me just yesterday to tell me that she would have to take up dog walking, Uber driving, and other part-time jobs just to cover the cost of her rent.

Neither of these Arizonans know what they will do if their paychecks continue to be held hostage for political games.

Mr. Speaker, the American people don't deserve this. It goes beyond the furloughed government workers. Small business owners and Arizona farmers and ranchers, already hit hard by uncertainty in their global trade partnerships, are being hurt by this.

There is agreement in this body and in the Senate on bipartisan spending measures that open up our government and provide increased funding for SMART, 21st century border security technology that has been proven effective.

The administration has conjured up this crisis and devastated the lives of countless Americans in the process, and it must end.

Mr. Speaker, these political games are hurting Arizona and our country.

□ 1115

## HONORING SHERIFF KELLY "KC" CLARK

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Sheriff Kelly "KC" Clark as he retires from three decades of service to Navajo County and the State of Arizona. From his first post as a patrol deputy in Winslow in 1989 to sheriff of Navajo County, KC has always dedicated his career to ensuring victims receive justice.

Throughout his life, KC has served Arizona as the president of the Arizona Narcotic Officers Association and three terms as president of the Arizona

County Attorney/Sheriff's Association. Additionally, KC is a graduate of the FBI Academy 220th Session and the Drug Unit Commanders Academy. He was named Sheriff of the Year by the WETIP Foundation. On top of all of this, Sheriff Clark served on the Northern Regional Advisory Committee for Homeland Security and is a commissioner on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to call KC a friend. His service to our great State is an inspiration to all public servants. I wish him and his wife, Brenda, the very best as he retires from the police force, and I know his commitment to serve in his community will not end.

## MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR WALL WILL NOT WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 2½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a wall is not remotely capable of dealing with the magnitude of our continental challenge to civil order. The forces of commerce, greed, addiction, and lawless cartels and gangs are too insidious. They will surmount any wall. They already have.

The President's demand for \$5 billion for a wall, whether concrete or steel, simply won't work. Why? Because most illegal narcotics are already shipped here hidden in cross-border commercial cargoes fueled by the flawed and underfunded NAFTA and CAFTA continental trade deals. Millions of trucks, autos, ships, railcars, and planes carry massive and increasing shipments of cargo traversing over our borders as continental trade increases exponentially.

Recall that NAFTA and CAFTA sucked out millions of living-wage jobs from our country, depositing them in Mexico and Central America to exploit penny-wage labor south of our border. Finished goods were then U-turned back north.

NAFTA and CAFTA negotiators promised higher wages for all. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even laborers south of our border earn less now than before NAFTA passed. There is more poverty here and there as the transnationals shipped our jobs out to earn higher profits by gutting our workforce and while exploiting workers in Mexico and Central America. On both sides of the border, workers lose and investors win.

This is a map of the Laredo checkpoint. There are 16 lanes of traffic just at that one point on our border. The problem is the drugs are often hidden in those commercial cargoes. We need more agents to check cargo, but we also need technology to find the hidden narcotics that are there.

In addition to that, we see China shipping fentanyl and carfentanil into our country, including through the U.S. mails. We have no scientific way of detecting those killer drugs.

So, if you really want to look at solving the problem, it is important for the

President to know that legal ports of entry are the primary route through which illicit drugs arrive here in our country. There are 48 such crossing points, plus 330 points of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border, the most frequently crossed border in the world. Approximately 350 million documented crossings occur there annually.

We need to regularize that entry into the United States. We need more manpower and technology. There is no way we can solve this problem with a wall.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### UNWANTED OFFSHORE DRILLING

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to call attention to an issue that gravely impacts the lives of South Carolinians and folks up and down the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts: offshore drilling.

Most actions in Congress are viewed through a partisan lens. The opposition to offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting, however, crosses party lines. In a time when Democrats and Republicans cannot agree on much, that this singular issue has gotten bipartisan support is even that much more significant.

H.R. 291, the Coastal Economies Protection Act, legislation that I introduced earlier this week, places a 10-year moratorium on oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting off the Atlantic and the Gulf Coasts.

Our vibrant natural resources define South Carolina, generating revenue and jobs and creating our unique way of life. Risking our thriving tourism, recreation, and fishing industries to oil exploration could have devastating economic repercussions across the State, and, frankly, these industries are too important to the health of South Carolina to risk.

#### PRIVATIZED ARMY LODGING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful last month to visit one of the privatized hotels of the Army at Fort Jackson, managed by the InterContinental Hotels Group.

IHG has worked to revitalize Army lodging to provide improved facilities for Army travelers and their families by supporting 40 major installations globally. Significant progress has been made under the leadership of President Donald Trump.

Many of the 370,000 guests and family members of basic combat training graduates who come to Fort Jackson are served every year by these hotels. More than 1 million guests have stayed at the Holiday Inn Express at Fort Jackson since 2013. This has saved \$84 million and employs 100 personnel directed by Chuck Sourbeer.

I support reforms for servicemembers and their families to have the same world-class hospitality experience that Fort Jackson provides.

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

#### DAY 20 OF TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, today, we enter day 20 of the Trump shutdown. President Trump has spent years as a reality television host, but, unfortunately, reality is still not his strong suit.

This week, President Trump abused the backdrop of the Oval Office to feed the American people divisive and distorted rhetoric, while still ignoring the reality that a wall is wasteful and it is impractical and inconsistent with our values.

President Trump has tried to convince the American people that there is a crisis at our border. The crisis, Madam Speaker, here is one of Donald Trump's own making: a government shutdown that has gone on too long.

This is affecting real lives. This is a humanitarian crisis. Federal workers and their families, 80 percent of whom live outside of the metropolitan area of D.C., will go without a paycheck this Friday because of this shutdown.

Madam Speaker, 7,000 workers in North Carolina are directly affected by the shutdown. Hundreds of thousands of public servants across the country are worried to death.

Senate Republicans have a choice. Do your constitutional duty, my fellow Senators. Do your job as a Senate. Pass the House bill that we have sent over to you.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DICK KLINE

(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, I rise today to honor the life of Dick Kline of Rimersburg, Pennsylvania.

Dick passed away at the age of 94. He leaves behind his daughters, Cathy and Mary, and many grand- and great-grandchildren.

He was a World War II Navy veteran who served on the hospital ship the USS *Tranquility*. During the war, he and his crewmates were dispatched to receive survivors of the sinking USS *Indianapolis*, which led to the largest loss of life at sea from a single ship in the history of the Navy.

After the war, Dick married his loving wife of 67 years, Rosalyn Jean Kline, and, together, they owned and operated Kline Funeral Home.

Dick stayed active in the community over the years. He was a member of the

VFW and the American Legion. He belonged to the Rimersburg United Methodist Church, and he gave 55 years of service as the secretary of Rimersburg borough. In 1999, they named him Citizen of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Dick Kline left a lasting impression in his service to his country, his community, and all those who knew him. He will be missed.

#### IMPACT OF THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the impact of the shutdown on Pennsylvania's Sixth District.

My office has heard from small businesses that can't pull permits, veterans receiving food assistance who worry, and Federal workers about paying their bills.

Agriculture is a vital part of the economy of my district, and the shutdown is having an impact there already as well. The last Congress passed a bipartisan farm bill, but the shutdown has prevented its implementation. The USDA farm loan program, a program providing millions of dollars to the Pennsylvania farmworkers, is no longer in effect.

My district is the mushroom capital of the world, and, yesterday, I heard from the mushroom growers that the lack of EPA inspections of drainage ditches and other water runoff is impacting the development of mushroom houses and the expansion of their businesses.

We cannot afford 1 day more, 1 week more, or 1 month more of this shutdown. We cannot ignore the impact it is having on so many Americans, including farmers, ranchers, and growers in Pennsylvania's Sixth.

The House has passed legislation to open our government, and I urge the Senate to do the people's work and to pass the bill as well.

#### HONORING ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF JEFF WILEY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley.

Sheriff Wiley joined the Marine Corps in 1970. He became a sheriff's deputy in 1974. He served in patrol, then detective, and then went on to the school board, where he served as director of student services from 1980 to 1988.

He came back to the sheriff's office and ultimately was elected sheriff in 1996, reelected for five terms. His career, perhaps, is marked best by some of the recognition: the recognition of Outstanding Man of Gonzales, the Outstanding Educator, the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, and the president of Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

He also spent much time creating programs for kids: the Junior Deputy Program, substance abuse programs, D.A.R.E. program, and a narcotics unit.

But perhaps his most important accomplishment is evolving this rural sheriff's office to a modern law enforcement agency in one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana.

With five decades of service, he has maintained the immaturity of a teenager. I am proud to call him a friend. I want to honor his service to our State and our Nation, and I commend his daughters, Sara and Erin, and recognize the 40 years of marriage to his wife, Linda.

#### RISING IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Federal workers across the country.

Right now, in Dallas, Texas, the American Federation of Government Employees local chapter, or AFGE, is organizing a rally to hold the President accountable for this shutdown.

Today, the President is finally making his first official visit to the Texas-Mexico border. He will be visiting McAllen, a town that I have visited on numerous occasions and have many friends, and I adore and love the town.

In 2018, McAllen saw their lowest crime rate in 30 years. And let's be clear: Democrats care about border security. We care about stopping crime. But we won't roll over because the President is getting frustrated that the majority of Americans don't want his wall, plain and simple.

The President and Senate Republicans are choosing political self-interest over our families. The members of the Dallas chapter of AFGE are real people who are facing two real burdens as a direct result of this shutdown. They are struggling to pay for rent and groceries.

The gut punch is that the President is far more concerned with his base in 2020 than securing the well-being of over 800,000 families.

#### HONORING THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S NEWEST LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the U.S. Navy's latest littoral combat ship christened the USS *Wichita*.

On Saturday, the USS *Wichita* will be commissioned in Mayport, Florida, where she will begin her service to our country. As the third USS *Wichita* in U.S. Naval history, this ship will carry on the proud legacy of representing Kansas' largest city around the globe.

*Wichita* will be represented on board by Chief Petty Officer Isaac Davis, a graduate of Wichita Heights High School, who will serve as an operations specialist, and Chief Petty Officer Brian Tanner, a graduate of Derby High School, who will serve as an information systems technician.

I am grateful for Chief Petty Officers Davis and Tanner, as well as the entire crew of the USS *Wichita*. I am also thankful for the efforts of so many people in our community who have been supportive of the work of the USS *Wichita* Commissioning Committee.

Thanks in part to these efforts, I know the USS *Wichita* will serve our community and country with pride.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the men and women of the USS *Wichita* fair winds and following seas.

#### IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, a bill to implement universal background checks as a critical first step towards ending the public health crisis of gun violence.

Today, I speak up in honor of the Moms and Students Demand Action leaders from Michigan's Ninth District who have inspired me. I speak up because it is unacceptable that far more people per capita are shot and killed annually in our country than in other wealthy nations. And it is unacceptable that in 2016, more than 1,200 Michiganders died from firearms-related injuries.

I speak up because the American people are counting on us to save lives, and this bill is a commonsense way to do that. I feel privileged to cosponsor this bill as one of my first actions in Congress. We owe it to families everywhere to get this done.

□ 1215

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE AMBROSE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and hobby radio control industry legend, Joe Ambrose, who passed away unexpectedly on Friday.

Joe was a lifelong resident of central Illinois and a graduate of the University of Illinois. He joined Horizon Hobby in Champaign in 2005 as vice president and in 2008 he became CEO, where he successfully grew the business over the next decade. This past

year he led the largest acquisition in radio control industry history through the purchase of crosstown competitor Hobbico RC.

Joe and his company were leading voices for establishing the micro UAS regulations, hosting myself and other stakeholders in June of 2016 for a roundtable on the topic. Horizon Hobby also participated in the FAA's UAS Aviation Rulemaking Committee. That group ultimately developed recommendations for performance-based regulations to allow certain unmanned aircraft to operate over people.

Joe made things happen in this institution. His visionary leadership will be missed, and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Julie, their four children, and eight grandchildren.

#### IT IS TIME TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of the hard-working Nevadans hurt most by this recent shutdown: The 3,512 Federal workers in Nevada who are missing out on paychecks; the 34,000 people in my district who could lose their nutritional assistance; the 1.1 million Nevada families whose tax refunds could be delayed; the air traffic controllers and TSA agents at McCarran International Airport who are forced to work without pay.

It is time to reopen the government and stop this shutdown from taking even more money out of their pockets. That is why I voted for bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown on the very first day of this new Congress.

It is time to reopen the government and get back to work on behalf of the American people and the people of Nevada's Fourth.

#### HONORING COLONEL ERICA INGRAM

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Colonel Erica Ingram, who recently became the first African-American female colonel in Arkansas National Guard history.

Colonel Ingram is a native of Wilmar, Arkansas, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She began her military career as a second lieutenant on Active Duty with the United States Army in 1995.

Throughout her two decades in the Army, Colonel Ingram has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the

National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Arkansas Service Ribbon.

She has served as the president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, and she is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock.

My congratulations and best wishes to Colonel Ingram and her family, and I thank her for her service to our citizens and her bright future as a defender of our great Nation.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, this is a frustrating time in Washington, in which most of us have been focused on the ongoing government shutdown. But I want to take a moment to talk about something positive the House is doing to protect everyday Americans across this country.

My colleagues and I have passed a motion to intervene in the Texas vs. United States lawsuit. If allowed to stand, this lower court ruling would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans who rely on the Affordable Care Act for health coverage, many of whom were denied coverage in the past for a preexisting condition.

133 million Americans are living with chronic illness, serious medical conditions, or even minor medical histories that used to disqualify them from all but the most expensive insurance coverage. We cannot return to a time when a cancer survivor or a child with diabetes is rejected for coverage because of a preexisting condition.

Affordable, quality healthcare should be a right for every American, and we should be making it easier, not harder, for everyone to get the insurance they deserve. That is why I am proud that the House has taken the action to intervene in the lawsuit, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to fighting back against those who seek to dismantle the fundamental protections no person should be denied.

I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues to uphold and protect access to American healthcare.

#### OUR COMMUNITIES NEED OUR HELP

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, we have talked a lot about border security this week, but I rise today to talk about a lot more than what goes on at the border.

Tens of thousands of people die from opioid addiction every year, including hundreds in the Fifth District alone.

Yesterday, on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I was reminded of the

many heroes I have met in law enforcement who try to prevent some of these tragedies; heroes who help people at the end of their ropes, people who see no way out; heroes like Sheriffs Bob Mosier of Fauquier County and Mike Taylor of Pittsylvania County.

This issue is important for my district and close to my heart. My immediate family has been affected by opioids and its awful and persistent hold. Localities across my district have been ravaged by the crisis, from Fauquier County in the north, to Pittsylvania County in the south.

They need our help. Our law enforcement needs our help. Our communities need our help. I call on Congress to act.

#### OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, we are entering the longest government shutdown in the Nation's history and, ironically, most of the Federal employees who are affected by the shutdown are the very Federal agents who we depend on to protect our borders.

To a national audience 2 days ago, the President repeatedly warned that terrorists are pouring into the United States from Mexico. This is the President's central argument for a 25 to \$40 billion border wall. He is now threatening to declare a national emergency to go around Congress to get that wall.

The President's own counterterrorism officials and experts said there has never been a case of a known terrorist sneaking into the country through open areas of the southern border. The Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment rates the situation at the southern border as a minimal threat. Who are we to believe?

Mr. President, open the government and prove that you can manage the situation at the border as Presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton did before you.

#### PARADISE, CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work that has been done by FEMA in my district in California where we had the devastating Camp fire affect and devastate Paradise, California. The clean-up and the recovery from this disaster is going pretty well, with a coordinated effort with FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and State entities like the Cal OES.

The response from the Federal Government after the President's visit has not been disappointing but, indeed, going pretty well.

So far, more than \$48 million has been approved by FEMA to help re-

cover from wildfire losses in California, including Butte County and Paradise. FEMA has been on the ground helping people get the assistance they need directly. Nearly 7,000 individual assistance applications have already been approved.

It is still extremely challenging for people who have suffered losses and who are, indeed, displaced from their homes, having to live with friends, relatives, motels, whatever that might be. I get that. It is very difficult. But we are all working in a coordinated way together to move along the recovery efforts as quickly as possible with State entities and Federal entities and local government. The outpouring of people who support each other has been amazing.

The administration has made a commitment from day 1 to help our people recover, and they have been backing it up to this point, and I expect this will fully continue.

#### FEDERAL WORKERS ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Federal workers in my district who are suffering because of the government shutdown.

I rise today for my constituent, Raj Kaur, a single mother of two, a breast cancer survivor, and a correctional officer at the Mendota Federal Prison. Raj is currently on leave as she recovers from surgery. She went on medical leave believing she would be financially secure as she recuperates.

Now, not only is Raj worrying about her health and recovery, but as a single mother, she is faced with the burden of trying to figure out how to provide for her family on grit alone. Unfortunately, Raj doesn't have a rich father to bail her out.

We say we are a Nation that values work and workers, but today we are forcing thousands of working men and women to work without pay because our colleagues in the Senate and the White House won't do their jobs.

Today, in solidarity with Raj and the hundreds of thousands of unpaid Federal workers nationally, I am asking the Chief Administrative Officer to withhold my pay until our government reopens.

This situation has gone on for far too long. It is time to get back to work.

#### RELEASE KHALIL MAATOUK

(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 speak about Khalil Maatouk, who is the executive director of the Syrian Center for Legal Studies and

Research, and the head of the Syrian Center for the Defense of Detainees.

On October 2 of 2012, 6 years ago, Mr. Maatouk was being driven to work by a friend, and that was the last time anyone was able to reach him. It is very possible that he was illegally detained at a security checkpoint by the Syrian Government. Even though a released detainee at the State Security detention facility in Damascus said he saw Khalil there, the Syrian general prosecutor has still denied his whereabouts.

Six years is long enough, Madam Speaker. It is time for the Syrian Government to release Khalil. He has dedicated his life to the defense of human rights, and it is past time that he gets to return to his family.

#### THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 20th day of the Trump shutdown, and I can only shake my head and ask why.

Why are 400,000 public servants being denied the opportunity to do their jobs?

Why are 420,000 more working without pay, many of them who put themselves in harm's way?

Why are 1.6 million Ohioans at risk of losing their SNAP benefits?

Why are first-time home buyers being kept from their new homes?

There is only one answer to those questions: Because Trump insists on wasting \$5 billion of the people's tax dollars on a vanity wall, a wall that will do little to address illegal immigration.

Democrats are for the people. Democrats want to protect our borders and reopen our government and put government workers back to work.

I urge the Senate to take up the bills that the House has passed and put our government back to work. Let's end this ridiculous shutdown.

□ 1230

#### IMPORTANCE OF STEM EDUCATION

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express and demonstrate the importance of STEM education in the lives of America's youth.

STEM education is vital to the economy, with STEM-related jobs growing faster than ever and the need for well-educated and well-trained young STEM professionals greater than ever.

STEM education also facilitates critical thinking skills, innovation, creativity, as well as cooperative learning.

Just one example of the impact that STEM education has at an early age is Janani Kumaran, an eighth grader

from Gainesville who placed second out of over 2,000 entries in the Broadcom Foundation MASTERS of STEM middle school competition.

Janani created a project using snails to reduce the negative effects of the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla found in many bodies of freshwater in Florida.

Congratulations to Janani. I look forward to everything you and the other great youth of America will be able to achieve because of STEM education, to keep our country great.

#### TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the President's senseless shutdown.

Over 5,000 Federal employees are affected in Michigan alone. These dedicated Michiganders are confronted with: How do I put food on my table? What bills will I pay? Which car or home payment can I afford? Which prescription do I fill?

These are real questions my constituents are now asking themselves.

Throwing a temper tantrum and threatening to keep the government shut down only reflects the President's lack of compassion for the citizens of this great country.

In Michigan, programs that provide home heating assistance or nutritional support for 1.5 million Michiganders are being held hostage by this President.

Federal support for small businesses is on the line.

One in ten workers in Michigan relies on SNAP to put food on their table.

Also, our highly esteemed veterans are waiting for us to do our job.

Every Democrat is devoted and committed to border safety. I will not vote for and I will not fund an ineffective wall. I want real border security.

I do support us doing our job. I just hope the President comes to his senses and stops hurting our country and our constituents.

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

#### HONORING NIKOS MOUYIARIS

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an entrepreneur, innovator, and philanthropist who truly lived the American Dream.

In 1975, Nikos Mouyiaris received a \$6,000 grant from his brother. He turned that small loan into a company that would become one of the world's most prestigious cosmetic manufacturers and developers.

A proud Greek American, Nikos dedicated his life to giving back to his

community, and his spirit demonstrates that we all benefit when we open our doors to hardworking immigrants who believe in the promise of America.

Nikos said: "We are successful not because we are smart; not because we worked hard; not because we were lucky; but because we had the good fortune of being able to stand on the shoulders of others."

As his loved ones mourn this devastating loss, we can take comfort in knowing that an entire community will be standing on his shoulders.

#### SAUDI ARABIA'S GENOCIDAL WAR IN YEMEN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 100 days ago today, the Saudi regime ordered the assassination of a journalist named Jamal Khashoggi.

This atrocity brought the world's attention to Saudi Arabia, a radical Wahhabi theocracy where the oppression of women and the persecution of Christians, Hindus, atheists, and other religious minorities, as well as the LGBT community, is a norm.

Since 2015, the United States has supported Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, causing millions of Yemeni people to suffer, starve, and get sick, creating the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

They spend billions of dollars spreading the extreme Wahhabi-Salafist ideology that fuels terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida around the world.

Contrary to what President Trump believes, Saudi Arabia is not our friend.

Here we are, 100 days later, and this Congress still refuses to take action to stop U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Congress must act now to end its support for Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen, exercise our constitutional authority over matters of war, and stop putting the profits of the military-industrial complex before the lives of the American people and people in the world.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 28, I call up the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 265

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$46,532,000, of which not to exceed \$5,051,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$800,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$1,496,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$4,711,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed \$23,105,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$22,301,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided further*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$3,869,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$7,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$11,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both

Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$19,786,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, \$15,222,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$9,525,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$63,950,000, of which not less than \$38,000,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$6,028,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$901,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$24,206,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$58,330,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$3,503,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), \$98,208,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, in-

cluding the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$45,146,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$4,136,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$86,757,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$174,767,000, of which up to \$45,300,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,300,966,000, of which \$10,600,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas; of which not less than \$2,000,000 shall be available to carry out the dryland agriculture research program; and of which not less than \$7,000,000 shall be available for purposes of entering into a management, operations, and research support contract to expedite the hiring of a capable workforce for the commissioning of the Central Utility Plant and in support of operations and management of the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$500,000, except for headhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000 each, and except for two buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$3,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease

shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$898,535,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: *Provided*, That funds for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, capacity building for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, multicultural scholars, graduate fellowship and institution challenge grants, and grants management systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 450i(b) may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$486,692,000, which

shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: *Provided*, That funds for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$38,000,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: *Provided*, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$901,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$1,000,493,000, of which \$470,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds ("contingency fund") to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which \$11,520,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for the cotton pests program for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which \$37,857,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Animal Health Technical Services; of which \$705,000 shall be for activities under the authority of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831); of which \$62,840,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to support avian health; of which \$4,251,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology infrastructure; of which \$178,170,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for specialty crop pests; of which \$11,826,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for field crop and rangeland ecosystem pests; of which \$16,523,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for zoonotic disease management; of which \$41,466,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for emergency preparedness and response; of which \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for tree and wood pests; of which \$5,725,000, to remain

available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile; of which up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the scrapie program for indemnities; of which \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: *Provided*, That of amounts available under this heading for wildlife services methods development, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of amounts available under this heading for the screwworm program, \$4,990,000 shall remain available until expended; of which \$13,600,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed five, of which two shall be for replacement only: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2019, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 428a, \$3,175,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$155,845,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 12306 of Public Law 113-79; and of which \$7,000,000 shall be available for marketing activities authorized under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of

1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)) to provide to State departments of agriculture, State cooperative extension services, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations grants to carry out programs and provide technical assistance to promote innovation, process improvement, and marketing relating to dairy products: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701).

#### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$60,982,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$20,489,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

#### PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,235,000.

#### LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

#### FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,049,344,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-

tion and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2019 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110-246 as further clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

#### TITLE II

### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

#### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, \$901,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

#### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, \$1,028,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$149,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

#### FARM SERVICE AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,202,146,000: *Provided*, That not more than 50 percent of the \$44,691,000 made available under this heading for information technology related to farm program delivery, including the Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems and other farm program delivery systems, may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and receives written or electronic notification of receipt from such Committees of, a plan for expenditure that (1) identifies for each project/investment over \$25,000 (a) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (b) the estimated lifecycle cost, including estimates for development as well as maintenance and operations, and (c) key milestones to be met; (2) demonstrates that each project/investment is, (a) consistent with the Farm Service Agency Information Technology Roadmap, (b) being managed in accordance with applicable lifecycle management policies and guidance, and (c) subject to the applicable Department's capital planning and investment control requirements; and (3) has been reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2019 to the Committees on Appropriations and the Government Accountability Office, that identifies for each

project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That funds made available to county committees shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101-5106), \$3,904,000.

#### GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well-head or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), \$6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

#### DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387, 114 Stat. 1549A-12).

#### AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 488), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 488) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$2,750,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$1,500,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$1,960,000,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,530,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$37,668,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; Indian highly fractionated land loans, \$10,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.



For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: farm operating loans, \$59,670,000 for direct operating loans, \$21,168,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans, emergency loans, \$1,567,000 and \$2,134,000 for Indian highly fractionated land loans to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$325,068,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$314,998,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses", of which \$8,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$74,829,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$879,107,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$5,600,000, shall remain available until expended for the authorities under 16 U.S.C. 1001-1005 and 1007-1009 for authorized ongoing watershed projects with a primary purpose of providing water to rural communities.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION  
OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001-1005 and 1007-1009) and in accordance with the provisions of laws relating to the activities of the Depart-

ment, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That for funds provided by this Act or any other prior Act, the limitation regarding the size of the watershed or subwatershed exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres in which such activities can be undertaken shall only apply for activities undertaken for the primary purpose of flood prevention (including structural and land treatment measures): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 shall be allocated to projects and activities that can commence promptly following enactment; that address regional priorities for flood prevention, agricultural water management, inefficient irrigation systems, fish and wildlife habitat, or watershed protection; or that address authorized ongoing projects under the authorities of section 13 of the Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944 (Public Law 78-534) with a primary purpose of watershed protection by preventing floodwater damage and stabilizing stream channels, tributaries, and banks to reduce erosion and sediment transport.

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND  
REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT  
(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$5,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of

Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$232,835,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE  
RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$1,100,000,000 shall be for direct loans and \$24,000,000,000 shall be for unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$28,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$40,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$230,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; and \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 loans, \$53,900,000 shall be for direct loans; section 504 housing repair loans, \$3,419,000; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, \$431,000; section 524 site development loans, \$176,000; and repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$9,484,000: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2019: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on their own resources to include proceeds from low income housing tax credit syndication, own contributions, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow

reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as "Asset Management Fee" of up to \$7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by sections 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$14,281,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts: *Provided*, That any balances available for the Farm Labor Program Account shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$412,254,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

#### RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,331,400,000, of which \$40,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020; and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one-year period: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction; maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2019 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of 12 consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the third proviso under this heading and notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2019 for a project that the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs.

#### MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, and for additional costs to conduct a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$26,000,000, shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid after

September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that the amount made available for vouchers in this or any other Act is not needed for vouchers, the Secretary may use such funds for the demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$24,000,000 shall be available for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or reamortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that additional funds for vouchers described in this paragraph are needed, funds for the preservation and revitalization demonstration program may be used for such vouchers: *Provided further*, That if Congress enacts legislation to permanently authorize a multi-family rental housing loan restructuring program similar to the demonstration program described herein, the Secretary may use funds made available for the demonstration program under this heading to carry out such legislation with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

#### MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$3,000,000,000 for direct loans and \$148,287,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$4,285,000, to remain available until expended.

For the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$47,778,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$6,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That \$5,778,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be to provide grants for facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression (Public Law 106-387), with up to 5 percent for administration and capacity building in the State rural development offices: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

#### RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

##### RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$69,619,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and \$8,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$18,889,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$4,157,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$557,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$1,072,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$45,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$30,050,000, of which \$3,750,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$17,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a), of which \$2,500,000 shall be for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized pursuant to section 6402 of Public Law 107-171.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$338,000: *Provided*, That the cost of loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$558,183,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the

rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed \$993,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act and such grants may not exceed \$1,000,000 notwithstanding section 306A(f)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$40,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$8,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$19,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further*, That any prior year balances for high-energy cost grants authorized by section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a) shall be transferred to and merged with the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by sections 305, 306, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of

1936 (7 U.S.C. 935, 936, and 940g) shall be made as follows: loans made pursuant to sections 305, 306, and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, rural electric, \$5,500,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A, \$750,000,000; 5 percent rural telecommunications loans, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, and for loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, rural telecommunications loans, \$690,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design and engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon sub-surface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, \$1,725,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$33,270,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND  
BROADBAND PROGRAM

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loans, \$29,851,000.

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost of broadband loans, as authorized by section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act, \$5,830,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of direct loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS

Any funds provided by this Act for rural health and safety education programs authorized under section 502(i) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)) may be used under those programs to address the opioid abuse epidemic and to combat opioid abuse in rural communities.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD,  
NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21,

and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$23,184,012,000 to remain available through September 30, 2020, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$17,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.); *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$30,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$28,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-80); *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2018” and inserting “2010 through 2019”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for fiscal year 2018” and inserting “for fiscal year 2019”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for fiscal year 2018” and inserting “for fiscal year 2019”.

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)**

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$6,150,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020, of which \$25,000,000 shall be placed in reserve, to remain available until expended, to be allocated as the Secretary deemed necessary, notwithstanding section 17(i) of such Act, to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$67,500,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and \$19,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to promote breastfeeding and improved nutritional health through technologies and services, including telemedicine: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$73,219,274,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through December 31,

2020, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workforce requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

**COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, \$322,139,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2019 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 15 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

**NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION**

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$164,688,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

**TITLE V**

**FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, \$875,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and

expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

**OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Codex Alimentarius, \$3,976,000, including not to exceed \$40,000 for official reception and representation expenses.

**FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$212,230,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available for middle-income country training programs, funds made available for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, and up to \$2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation solely for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service, shall remain available until expended.

**FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE I DIRECT CREDIT AND**

**FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For administrative expenses to carry out the credit program of title I, Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480) and the Food for Progress Act of 1985, \$142,000, shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses”.

**FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS**

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,716,000,000, to remain available until expended.

**MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS**

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$210,255,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$15,000,000, shall remain available until expended for necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3207 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1726c).

**COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT**

**(LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$8,845,000; to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and

in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, of which \$6,382,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses”, and of which \$2,463,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses”.

## TITLE VI

## RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; in addition to amounts appropriated to the FDA Innovation Account, for carrying out the activities described in section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255); for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$5,419,299,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$960,568,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$196,668,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$501,396,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$40,922,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$30,331,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$18,336,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2019 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2019, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2019 but credited for fiscal year 2019, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2019 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2019 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2020, prior to the due date for such fees, and that

amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2020 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2019 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$1,052,315,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than \$15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) \$1,720,807,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (3) \$369,857,000 shall be for the Center for Biologicals Evaluation and Research and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (4) \$216,914,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (5) \$495,988,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (6) \$65,531,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$662,043,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (8) not to exceed \$174,751,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$50,987,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) not to exceed \$240,887,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$420,206,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, the Office of Medical and Tobacco Products, the Office of Global and Regulatory Policy, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for “other activities”, and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General” for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), and medical countermeasure priority review voucher

user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

## BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, demolition, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$11,788,000, to remain available until expended.

## FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT

For necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described under section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act, in addition to amounts available for such purposes under the heading “Salaries and Expenses”, \$70,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated in this paragraph are appropriated pursuant to section 1002(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1002(b)(2)(A) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to the appropriation for “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses” solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Commissioner that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the account: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

## INDEPENDENT AGENCY

## FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

## LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$74,600,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

## TITLE VII

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

## (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. Within the unit limit of cost fixed by law, appropriations and authorizations made for the Department of Agriculture for the current fiscal year under this Act shall be available for the purchase, in addition to those specifically provided for, of not to exceed 71 passenger motor vehicles of which 68 shall be for replacement only, and for the hire of such vehicles: *Provided*, That notwithstanding this section, the only purchase of new passenger vehicles shall be for those determined by the Secretary to be necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*,

That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 717 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer or any personnel from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 717 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants

and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former RUS borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313(b)(2)(B) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for information technology expenses: *Provided*, That except as otherwise specifically provided by law, unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Rural Development mission area shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or pro-

grams for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. None of the funds in this Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against any agricultural research, education, or extension grant awards issued by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture that exceed 30 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), funds provided by this Act for grants awarded competitively by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture shall be available to pay full allowable indirect costs for each grant awarded under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

SEC. 714. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 715. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as "section 14222"), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as "section 32") in excess of \$1,299,600,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$2,500,000; Administration of Section 32 Commodity Purchases—\$35,853,000: *Provided*, That of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2019, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2020 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed \$350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by

this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

SEC. 716. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2020 appropriations Act.

SEC. 717. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

- (1) creates new programs;
  - (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
  - (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;
  - (4) relocates an office or employees;
  - (5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or
  - (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;
- unless the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

- (1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;
- (2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or
- (3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of

both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

- (1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;
- (2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or
- (3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 718. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 719. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 720. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 721. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 722. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000 for a pilot program to provide com-

petitive grants to State departments of agriculture, State cooperative extension services, and nonprofit organizations to carry out programs to address farmer stress and suicide.

SEC. 723. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed spending plan by program, project, and activity for all the funds made available under this Act including appropriated user fees, as defined in Senate Report 115-259.

SEC. 724. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$501,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 725. The Secretary shall continue an intermediary loan packaging program based on the pilot program in effect for fiscal year 2013 for packaging and reviewing section 502 single family direct loans. The Secretary shall continue agreements with current intermediary organizations and with additional qualified intermediary organizations. The Secretary shall work with these organizations to increase effectiveness of the section 502 single family direct loan program in rural communities and shall set aside and make available from the national reserve section 502 loans an amount necessary to support the work of such intermediaries and provide a priority for review of such loans.

SEC. 726. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 727. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 728. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the "variety" requirements of the final rule entitled "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term "variety" as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and "variety" as applied in the definition of the term "staple food" as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016:

*Provided*, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

SEC. 729. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940); or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with subsection section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, within or outside the State in which the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 730. Funds provided by this or any prior Appropriations Act for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 450i(b) shall be made available without regard to section 7128 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3371 note), under the matching requirements in laws in effect on the date before the date of enactment of such section: *Provided*, That the requirements of 7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(9) shall continue to apply.

SEC. 731. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 732. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 733. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to carry out the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration and put into effect November 16, 2015, in regards to the hazard analysis and risk-based preventive control requirements of the current good manufacturing practice, hazard analysis, and risk-based preventive controls for food for animals rule with respect to the regulation of the production, distribution, sale, or receipt of dried spent grain byproducts of the alcoholic beverage production process.

SEC. 735. There is hereby appropriated \$1,996,000 to carry out section 1621 of Public Law 110-246.

SEC. 736. No partially hydrogenated oils as defined in the order published by the Food and Drug Administration in the Federal Register on June 17, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 34650 et

seq.) shall be deemed unsafe within the meaning of section 409(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 348(a)) and no food that is introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce that bears or contains a partially hydrogenated oil shall be deemed adulterated under sections 402(a)(1) or 402(a)(2)(C)(i) of this Act by virtue of bearing or containing a partially hydrogenated oil until the compliance date as specified in such order (June 18, 2018).

SEC. 737. There is hereby appropriated \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the Secretary may allow eligible entities to offer loans to customers in any part of their service territory and to offer loans to replace a manufactured housing unit with another manufactured housing unit, if replacement would be more cost effective in saving energy.

SEC. 738. For fiscal years 2019 through 2025, the Administrators of the Agricultural Research Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may make not to exceed 50 appointments in any fiscal year for employees of such agencies at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas: *Provided*, That such appointments may be made in the manner provided by 7 U.S.C. 7657(b)(4)(A)(i-v): *Provided further*, That such appointments may be made at a rate of basic pay that exceeds the rate payable for such positions under the General Schedule or the Executive Schedule, or other applicable schedule, as appropriate.

SEC. 739. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000 for the Secretary to carry out a pilot program that provides forestry inventory analysis, forest management and economic outcomes modelling for certain currently enrolled Conservation Reserve Program participants. The Secretary shall allow the Commodity Credit Corporation to enter into agreements with and provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations dedicated to conservation, forestry and wildlife habitats, that also have experience in conducting accurate forest inventory analysis through the use of advanced, cost-effective technology. The Secretary shall focus the analysis on lands enrolled for at least eight years and located in areas with a substantial concentration of acres enrolled under conservation practices devoted to multiple bottomland hardwood tree species including CP03, CP03A, CP11, CP22, CP31 and CP40.

SEC. 740. During fiscal year 2019, the Food and Drug Administration shall not allow the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of any food that contains genetically engineered salmon until the FDA publishes final labeling guidelines for informing consumers of such content.

SEC. 741. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301-1311).

SEC. 742. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel products” means the following products

made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 743. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2019, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones.

SEC. 744. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Development programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 745. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate the



acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 746. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 747. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall carry out a pilot program during fiscal year 2019 with respect to the 2018 crop year for county-level agriculture risk coverage payments under section 1117(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)), that provides all or some of the State Farm Service Agency offices in each State the opportunity to provide agricultural producers in the State a supplemental payment described in subsection (c) based on the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) for 1 or more counties in a State if the office for that State determines that the alternate calculation method is necessary to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, there are not significant yield calculation disparities between comparable counties in the State.

(b) The alternate calculation method referred to in subsection (a) is a method of calculating the actual yield for the 2018 crop year for county-level agriculture risk coverage payments under section 1117(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)), under which—

(1) county data of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (referred to in this section as “NASS data”) is used for the calculations;

(2) if there is insufficient NASS data for a county (as determined under standards of the Secretary in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act) or the available NASS data produces a substantially disparate result, the calculation of the county yield is determined using comparable contiguous county NASS data as determined by the Farm Service Agency office in the applicable State; and

(3) if there is insufficient NASS data for a comparable contiguous county (as determined under standards of the Secretary in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act), the calculation of the county yield is determined using reliable yield data from other sources, such as Risk Management Agency data, National Agricultural Statistics Service district data, National Agricultural Statistics Service State yield data, or other data as determined by the Farm Service Agency office in the applicable State.

(c)(1) A supplemental payment made under the pilot program established under this section may be made to an agricultural producer who is subject to the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) if that agricultural producer would otherwise receive a county-level agriculture risk coverage payment for the 2018 crop year in an amount that is less than the payment that the agricultural producer would receive under the alternate calculation method.

(2) The amount of a supplemental payment to an agricultural producer under this section may not exceed the difference between—

(A) the payment that the agricultural producer would have received without the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b); and

(B) the payment that the agricultural producer would receive using the alternate calculation method.

(d)(1) There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, to carry out the pilot program described in this section.

(2) Of the funds appropriated, the Secretary shall use not more than \$5,000,000 to carry out the pilot program described in this section.

(e)(1) To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall select States to participate in the pilot program under this section so the cost of the pilot program equals the amount provided under subsection (d).

(2) To the extent that the cost of the pilot program exceeds the amount made available, the Secretary shall reduce all payments under the pilot program on a pro rata basis.

(f) Nothing in this section affects the calculation of actual yield for purposes of county-level agriculture risk coverage payments under section 1117(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)) other than payments made in accordance with the pilot program under this section.

(g) A calculation of actual yield made using the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) shall not be used as a basis for any agriculture risk coverage payment determinations under section 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017) other than for purposes of the pilot program under this section.

SEC. 748. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary’s designees are hereby granted the same access to information and subject to the same requirements applicable to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development as provided in section 453 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653) and section 6103(1)(7)(D)(ix) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1603(1)(7)(D)(ix)) to verify the income for individuals participating in sections 502, 504, 521, and 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474, 1490a, and 1490r), notwithstanding section 453(1)(1) of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 749. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 18(g)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 750. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to develop, issue, promote, or advance any regulations applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions or to develop, issue, promote or advance final guidance applicable to food manufacturers for long term population-wide sodium reduction actions until the date on which a dietary reference intake report with respect to sodium is completed.

SEC. 751. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities.

SEC. 752. For an additional amount for “Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Salaries and Expenses”, \$7,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for one-time control and management and associated activities directly related to the multiple-agency response to citrus greening.

SEC. 753. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled “Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing,

and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption,” and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of the production, distribution, sale, or receipt of grape varieties that are grown, harvested and used solely for wine and receive commercial processing that adequately reduces the presence of microorganisms of public health significance.

SEC. 754. There is hereby appropriated \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., to help address the opioid epidemic in rural America.

SEC. 755. There is hereby appropriated \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for a pilot program for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for programs and services to establish and enhance farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans.

SEC. 756. There is hereby appropriated \$425,000,000, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for Sec. 779 of Public Law 115–141.

SEC. 757. For an additional amount for the cost of direct loans and grants made under the “Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”, \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 758. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104–127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 759. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to revoke an exception made—

(1) pursuant to the final rule of the Department of Agriculture entitled “Exceptions to Geographic Areas for Official Agencies Under the USGSA” (68 Fed. Reg. 19137 (April 18, 2003)); and

(2) on a date before April 14, 2017.

SEC. 760. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to any State or county impacted by a volcanic eruption covered by a major disaster declared by the President in calendar year 2018 in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) technical assistance—

(1) to assess damage to agricultural production and rural infrastructure; and

(2) to develop recovery plans for impacted farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

#### RESEARCH ON OCEAN AGRICULTURE

SEC. 761. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish a working group (referred to in this section as the “working group”)—

(1) to study how mangroves, kelp forests, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows could help deacidify the oceans;

(2) to study emerging ocean farming practices that use kelp and seagrass to deacidify the oceans while providing feedstock for agriculture and other commercial and industrial inputs; and

(3) to coordinate and conduct research to develop and enhance pilot-scale research for farming of kelp and seagrass in order—

(A) to deacidify ocean environments;

(B) to produce a feedstock for agriculture; and

(C) to develop other scalable commercial applications for kelp, seagrass, or products derived from kelp or seagrass.

(b) The working group shall include—

- (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (2) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- (3) representatives of any relevant offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(4) the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

(c) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

- (1) the findings of the research described in subsection (a);
- (2) the results of the pilot-scale research described in subsection (a)(3); and
- (3) any policy recommendations based on those findings and results.

SEC. 762. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report describing the ways in which conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service may be better used for the conservation of ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) and any action taken by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service relating to the conservation of ocelots.

SEC. 763. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report including—

- (1) a description of—
  - (A) the number of properties assisted under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) that are reaching the end of their loan term;
  - (B) the location of each property described in subparagraph (A);
  - (C) the number of units in each property described in subparagraph (A); and
  - (D) the date on which each the loan for each property described in subparagraph (A) is expected to reach maturity;
- (2) the strategy of the Rural Housing Service to preserve the long-term affordability of the properties described in paragraph (1)(A) when the loan matures; and
- (3) a description of the resources and tools that the Rural Housing Service needs from Congress in order to preserve the long-term affordability of the properties described in paragraph (1) (A).

SEC. 764. Out of amounts appropriated to the Food and Drug Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than July 1, 2019, and following the review required under Executive Order 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled “Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability” (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

SEC. 765. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

- (1) ensure that applicants that are determined to be ineligible for the pilot program have a means of appealing or otherwise challenging that determination in a timely fashion; and
- (2) in determining whether an entity may overbuild or duplicate broadband expansion

efforts made by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service, not consider loans that were rescinded or defaulted on, or loans the terms and conditions of which were not met, if the entity under consideration has not previously defaulted on, or failed to meet the terms and conditions of, a Rural Utilities Service loan or had a Rural Utilities Service loan rescinded.

1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING  
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

SEC. 767. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amounts made available by this Act to carry out sections 1444 and 1445, respectively, of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221, 3222) shall each be increased by \$3,000,000.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available under the heading “(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)” under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be decreased by \$6,000,000.

SEC. 768. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to enforce the requirement in the final rule entitled “Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels”, published in the Federal Register on May 27, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 33742), that any single ingredient sugar, honey, agave, or syrup (including maple syrup) that is packaged and offered for sale as a single ingredient food bear the declaration “Includes Xg Added Sugars”.

SEC. 769. The explanatory statement regarding division C of H.R. 21, printed in the Congressional Record on January 3, 2019, and submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, shall have the same effect with respect to allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 770. (a) Employees furloughed as a result of any lapse in appropriations beginning on or about December 22, 2018 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation, for the period of such lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after such lapse in appropriations ends.

(b) For purposes of this section, “employees” means any Federal employees whose salaries and expenses are provided in this Act.

(c) All obligations incurred in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by this Act for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government functions, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 771. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee’s non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees (or the grantee’s employees) whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

(2) the State (or such other grantee) shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

(3) the State (or such other grantee) may use funds available to the State (or the grantee) under such Federal program to reimburse such State (or the grantee), together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “State” and the term “grantee,” including United States territories and possessions, shall have the meaning given such terms under the applicable Federal program under subsection (a). In addition, “to continue carrying out a Federal program” means the continued performance by a State or other Federal grantee, during the period of a lapse in appropriations, of a Federal program that the State or such other grantee had been carrying out prior to the period of the lapse in appropriations.

(c) The authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 2019 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this Act) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government receiving funding in this Act which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the expenses referred to in this section with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, today marks the 20th day of the partial government shutdown. Each day pushes many of our government’s vital services to the breaking point, further jeopardizing the 800,000 Federal employees who are furloughed and the countless other Americans feeling the shutdown’s impact.

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act is a critically important piece of legislation for our Nation. From the food we eat to the medications we depend on, this bill touches the lives of every American.

It must be passed now, and the furloughed employees at these vital Federal agencies, our farmers, our agribusinesses, and the other Americans who are depending on their livelihoods must be brought back to work.

Because of the shutdown, USDA has stopped making loans and grants for rural development programs such as housing, water and wastewater facilities, and community facilities. New grants to our universities for agriculture research can't be made.

Across the Nation, Farm Service Agency county offices have been closed since December 28. Farmers applying for relief from retaliatory tariffs are in limbo, waiting for the shutdown to end. Nearly 33,000 USDA employees who are funded by this bill are currently furloughed.

At the Food and Drug Administration, more than 10,000 employees are working without pay, while another 7,000 have been furloughed, which is impacting everything from user fee collections to the reduction of food safety inspections, jeopardizing the food we eat. According to USDA, nearly 9,000 people are working without pay to inspect our meat, poultry, and egg products.

This bill would fund the Food Safety and Inspection Service at over \$1 billion and restore our safety.

I will be the first person to admit that this bill is not perfect, but no bill ever is. However, this is about opening the government and putting it back to work for the American people.

This bill has passed the Senate by a vote of 92-6. There is no reason why we should not pass this bill since it has already been adopted by the leadership of the Senate and the Members of the Senate overwhelmingly, so that we can put American workers back on the job.

Specifically, this legislation provides over \$23 billion in discretionary funding for USDA and FDA. That is \$225 million above the 2018 enacted level.

It provides \$2.73 billion for agriculture research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and NIFA, an increase of \$114 million from fiscal year 2018. These increases will help to ensure American agriculture remains competitive with other nations.

The Farm Service Agency, whose county offices were shuttered for December 28, is funded at \$1.6 billion. In my district, all the county offices are now closed. These offices are the primary line of communication for our farmers and our ranchers, providing critical data, processing loans, and answering questions. Without this assistance and information, they are left in the dark when it comes to planning for next year's harvest.

Peanut sellers and cotton growers, who suffered from Hurricane Michael recently, are at a loss. They have product that is stored in warehouses that they need to sell in order to get income, but they can't get those sales accomplished without an okay from the Farm Service Agency. Those offices are closed. Nobody is there.

This legislation also makes significant investments in rural development by providing \$3.8 billion. It takes a balanced approach with investments in water and wastewater facilities, broadband, housing, and rural businesses.

Again, right now, as a result of the shutdown, loans and grants that help small towns and rural communities all across the country are not being made.

This legislation rejects the President's proposed elimination of the Food for Peace program and instead funds it at \$1.716 billion, which is \$216 million above the House bill. The McGovern-Dole program, which was also proposed for elimination by the President, is funded at \$210 million, slightly above the House level. I might note that the House funded both of these, contrary to the President's wishes.

Finally, this legislation funds the Food and Drug Administration at \$2.97 billion, which is \$159 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, a 6 percent increase.

I would also like to point out that this bill does better than the House in addressing the opioid crisis that is hitting every single district in the country.

It also provides more funding for food safety than the House bill.

After nearly 3 weeks of uncertainty, it looks like the nearly 40 million people who are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits will be able to keep their benefits at least through February. However, the funds for SNAP beneficiaries, for a single mother or a small shopkeeper, will run dry in March.

This bill, which provides \$73.2 billion in mandatory funding for SNAP, will end any doubt about this, and it will give these recipients the peace of mind that they deserve.

Through a diverse urban-rural coalition, this legislation includes our farmer safety net, our food and nutrition programs.

Families, farmers, ranchers, and producers go to work every morning; so should their government.

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill that is before us. I not only oppose the bill that is before us, but I also have to oppose the process by which the remaining fiscal year 2019 bills are being dealt with by the new majority.

Anything but a full open rule on appropriations bills was absolutely condemned by the Democrats for the past 8 years. However, the new majority, as one of their first actions, has proposed a closed rule for all four appropriations bills this week.

□ 1245

I, along with my colleagues, am dismayed at the prospect of adopting the Senate-passed Agriculture appropriations bill to represent the House's position on funding and policy matters for our farmers, ranchers, producers, consumers, and nearly all the citizens impacted by the great work that has been done by USDA, FDA, and the CFTC.

The priorities of literally hundreds of Members were part of the original FY19 Republican-led legislation.

Around 10 months ago, we began the process of developing a House bill with House priorities. We drafted H.R. 5961 after holding five oversight hearings, after receiving and reviewing nearly 6,000 bills and report requests that were submitted by over 350 Members of Congress, after we incorporated bipartisan House Member requests covering House priorities from every corner of the Nation and from all demographics, after we held a subcommittee markup with full participation by the Agriculture Subcommittee members, and after we held a full committee markup that lasted several hours and was an open process by which all the members of the committee, Democrats and Republicans, could offer amendments.

The House Members invested hundreds of hours to produce a spending bill that is best for the needs and the priorities of the constituents back home, whether they came from rural, whether they came from suburban, or whether they come from urban communities.

Starting this past summer, we started the process of negotiating the House and Senate bills and reports to arrive at a four-corner agreement between the House and the Senate. The House and the Senate majority and minority parties made tremendous progress in coming along with a negotiated agreement.

After all of that time and effort that was invested in the process, why would we throw it all away today?

I want to point out that over the course of the past 10 months and during my 6 years that I have served as chairman of the Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work beside my friend and my colleague and now the incoming chairman, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, as we develop the bills to meet the needs of our fellow citizens.

But now we have an Agriculture appropriations bill in front of us today which totals \$23.1 billion and \$101 million below the Senate-passed Agriculture appropriations bill. And I will point out that the \$101 million represents a change to the Senate bill made by the House majority to reduce funding for the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Let me provide this Chamber with a few of the examples where this current bill fails to fund House Member priorities:

Regarding public health, the House Republican bill included \$3.1 billion for the Food and Drug Administration, while the new Democratic proposal that is before us includes only \$2.9 billion for the Food and Drug Administration. The higher levels in the Republican bill are critical to helping industry advance their medical product innovations to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency. The ultimate beneficiary is the American consumer or the patient.

Also, compared to the House Republican bill, the Democratic bill fails to include two provisions that place limits on chicken imported from China. The Republican bill includes an outright ban on Chinese chicken in school meals, while the Democratic bill fails to include this protection for our children.

Regarding rural broadband, in FY 2018, we established a pilot program to expand broadband infrastructure to rural communities. One of the greatest needs that I have heard when talking to my constituents in rural Alabama—and I know this is the same from other Members whom I have talked to across the Nation—this bill provides \$125 million less than what we provided in the House bill.

When it comes to agriculture research, our Republican bill included nearly \$30 million more for National Institute of Food and Agriculture for research priorities of House Members who are not included in the Democratic proposal.

When it comes to rural infrastructure, the Republican bill included language to secure set-aside funds for persistent poverty counties in rural areas. This provision is vital to rural communities across the country that face challenges escaping poverty. This language is not included in the Democratic bill, and so the new majority chose to dismiss this protection for the rural poor.

These are just a few examples of why the new House majority's adoption of a Senate-passed bill is not going in the right direction.

The other side wants to claim that these bills are bipartisan, but they are clearly not bicameral, and they have no input from the 435 House Members.

Some of the great House appropriators of our time on both sides of the aisle would probably be rolling over in their graves right now if they knew of such a move to take up Senate spending bills without any House input.

So I urge my fellow Members to stand up for the House priorities for public health and for rural development and reject a strategy of passing the Senate bills, which at the end of the day is not going to bring us any closer to resolving the partial government shutdown.

To paraphrase the President's remarks two nights ago: In order for us to resolve this funding dispute, we need to invest in border security not because we hate the people on the outside

of our borders, but because we love the people within our borders. The only thing that is immoral is for politicians to stand by and do nothing.

So I would encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who is the first female chair of the United States House Committee on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, the Trump shutdown is now in its 20th day. More than 800,000 Federal employees are going without pay, many while they are still working and the American people are being denied vital services.

Due to President Trump's shutdown over his demands for a wasteful border wall, the Food and Drug Administration cannot conduct routine inspections for food safety and has slowed evaluation of new drugs and medical products.

USDA is no longer able to provide farmers and rural communities with loans and grants to assist housing, utilities, or economic development. And approximately 40 million Americans who depend on SNAP for food assistance, including more than 3 million New Yorkers, have faced unnecessary fear and uncertainty about whether they are weeks away from going hungry.

House Democrats have passed bills to open the government, but the President and Senate Republicans continue to obstruct instead of working with us to get the people's business done.

In my judgment, the solution to this crisis is simple: Let's pass the bills where we can agree, where there is bipartisan support, and let's extend funding for Homeland Security for 30 days—1 month—to allow time for negotiation on border security and immigration policy. This seems to me, in my judgment, to be fair, to be thoughtful, and to be the way for us to get together and open this government. I do hope that my colleagues across the Capitol come to their senses and stop this ridiculous Trump shutdown.

We can begin this bipartisan path by passing the bill before us. This bill passed the Senate in September with a vote of 92-6. This bill would open the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration and adequately fund these services through the end of the fiscal year.

Sadly, to date, my Republican colleagues have followed the President's blind lead all while jeopardizing these vital services upon which American families and businesses rely.

Let's pass the bill today and put USDA and FDA back to work for the American people.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), who serves on the authorizing committee, the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, the President has shown his willingness to negotiate and has negotiated. The President has proposed various dollar amounts he is willing to accept for border security, has said he is ready to discuss DACA, and has listened to the other side's request for materials other than concrete to be considered for a structure on our southern border.

The crisis at the southern border should not be a partisan issue. It is an American and immigrant crisis. The solution should be one that is best for America and not a party; for if it is best for America, we all benefit from that. Yet the Democrats continue to dig in their heels and not budge. Republicans have shown time and again that they are willing to talk.

The House should oppose this bill that will not bring our country any closer to a border security solution or resolve the partial government shutdown.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and chair of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, and is the former chair of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the President is holding the country hostage, putting hundreds of thousands of families at great risk.

The President has manufactured a crisis at the border that has no basis in fact and has used the wall to incite fear. Vital agriculture programs, which millions of families and farmers depend on, are at risk.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farm service loans are stalled, family farmers need the capital to buy seed and equipment for the approaching planting season. Rural development programs are at risk.

Food stamps, food banks, and food programs are down to their last dollars. School lunch programs and other nutrition programs are at risk. Forty-seven million Americans could go hungry.

Let's take a look at the Food and Drug Administration, because our food supply is at risk. When you go to the grocery store, you can't be sure that the product you are buying is safe because almost all food safety inspectors have been furloughed. The FDA remains understaffed for food surveillance and food recall operations.

The Commissioner of the FDA, Scott Gottlieb, said routine food safety inspections are not taking place. The FDA has stopped posting warning letters. Routine inspections of food facilities are not taking place, and FDA's work finalizing guidance and implementing rules related to the Food Safety Modernization Act is in limbo.

Foodborne illness kills 3,000 Americans every year, and because of the

President's manufactured crisis, the safety of every American is in question. We have a duty to our constituents and their safety. We cannot stand by while this President holds the country hostage. Their physical and their financial well-being is at stake.

Let's pass this bipartisan bill so that hungry families can eat, consumers can be safe, and farmers can do their job.

□ 1300

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), who serves on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. He has been a vital part of that subcommittee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, there is a host of things wrong with bringing this bill to the floor. By bringing forth the Senate version of this bill, it completely ignores all of the work this subcommittee has done over the past year. It ignores Members' priorities, and all of the testimony that we received that served as the basis of the House version of the Agriculture bill.

I will name a few examples of what this looks like. First, for the Food and Drug Administration, Madam Speaker, the House bill included \$3.1 billion for the FDA. The Senate bill before us today includes \$2.9 billion.

The additional \$149 million in the original House bill supported a number of medical product initiatives above the level in the Senate bill, including initiatives like the promotion of domestic manufacturing, the new domestic drug industry, and the new medical data enterprise initiative.

Madam Speaker, the higher levels in the Republican bill are critical to helping industry advance medical products to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency. The ultimate beneficiary is the American consumer or patient.

Lastly, an issue that is very important to my home State of Mississippi and the Nation at large: rural broadband. The House Republican bill made a major investment in a broadband pilot program for rural America. We included \$550 million to expand broadband infrastructure for some of our country's most underserved communities.

The appropriation in this bill before us today falls short of meeting this critical priority. Madam Speaker, ultimately bringing the Senate version of this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and all of the hard work Members from both sides of the aisle have put into this process.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the legislation.

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

Let me just say that, as we said before, this bill is not perfect, but we

should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Chief among the funding in this bill is funding that is included to combat one of the biggest public health risks today which is opioids. The bill provides strong support for the FDA to combat this opioid epidemic.

In addition to funds provided last year, it provides \$59 million to continue the activities involved in inspecting, investigating, and screening of opioids. As the agency that oversees these drugs, the FDA has a vital responsibility, I agree, to make sure that the public health impacts of opioid abuse is mitigated, but this funding is just one part of a broad strategy to address opioids.

The committee strongly supports the FDA's role in intergovernmental efforts to confront the crisis, but since we must move forward and open the government, we urge adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Committee on Appropriations, co-chair of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and a long-time advocate for the elimination of persistent poverty in America and across the world.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairman BISHOP for bringing forth this bill and for his tremendous leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the fiscal 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill, which provides more than \$23 billion to partially reopen the government. This critical bill would ensure that struggling families do not go hungry.

Madam Speaker, there are 38 million families who rely on SNAP food stamps to help put food on the table. And while USDA has said they will pay for SNAP and WIC in February, there is no guarantee for families in March. Let's be clear. We are talking about 38 million Americans going hungry.

Already, SNAP benefits are woefully insufficient to feed a family. No one can make a meal off of \$1.40 a meal, and now families may be left with nothing.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what President Trump says, food banks and charities cannot make up the difference. They are already struggling with the volume of need in our communities throughout the country. This is simply immoral.

I am reminded of a very difficult period when I was a young, single mother raising two little boys and had to rely on food stamps to get my family through some very difficult, tough times. It was a bridge over troubled water. That lifeline should be there for all families all of the time.

Our billionaire President may not know what it is like to choose between putting food on the table or gas in the car, but I tell you, I do.

And forcing the choice on families because of a manufactured showdown is unconscionable. So let's pass the bill to

reopen the government. Let's get Federal employees back to work, and get them the paychecks they need.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and "yes" to reopen the government. The American people deserve no less.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the new ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 265.

Unfortunately, moving this bill across the House floor will not resolve the partial government shutdown. As the President has said, he will not sign this bill into law.

It is the job and responsibility of the Congress to appropriate funds, who must come together to find a solution that will reopen the government and fund border security. We need a compromise that represents the will of both Chambers and the American people.

By considering the Senate-passed versions of the appropriations bills, we are eliminating House Members' involvement in the process. When it comes to investment in agriculture, rural development, and public health programs that are important to Americans across the country, H.R. 265 funds Senate priorities by shortchanging House priorities.

For example, this bill provides less funding for food and drug safety and public health. For the average American, this means decreased access to medical products because there are less resources to bring those products to market in a safe and efficient manner.

This bill also leaves behind funding to address persistent poverty in rural areas. This is a vital resource as rural communities across the country seek to break the cycle of poverty. We can and we must do better.

Madam Speaker, Republicans stand ready and willing to negotiate with our friends on the other side of the aisle on legislation that includes priorities of both Houses, and both Chambers. This is how this legislative body and our system of government are designed to work.

I want to thank my colleague from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) for his efforts today and over the last several months to ensure that the House's voice is heard in this debate.

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

It has been said many times that we shouldn't pass this bill which has previously been adopted by the Senate because the President will not sign it.

Well, I believe that we have three branches of government, and it is our obligation as the legislative branch to pass the laws. If we do our job, then we will let the President be held responsible for his failure to do his. We must keep this government open for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a member of the Subcommittee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, our future chair, for yielding me the time. I rise in support of H.R. 265, the fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill.

There is no reason we cannot pass these individual appropriations bills that have nothing to do with border security and have strong bipartisan support.

The fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill includes robust funding for the USDA and the FDA, two Federal agencies that touch the lives of every American.

President Trump's obsession with the wall should not jeopardize Americans' access to important food, housing, and farm programs at USDA and FDA.

The shutdown is having real impacts back in my home State of Maine: for the farmer who would lose their family farm before refinancing of their FSA mortgage can be approved; for the single parent trying to make ends meet and not knowing whether their SNAP benefits will be there next month; and for the couple who won't be able to close on their dream home because they can't access a rural housing loan.

These are just a few examples of how disruptive this shutdown has been in my district. Just last month we finalized the 2018 farm bill, finally giving farmers and families certainty about these important USDA programs. That certainty was ripped away from them because the USDA can't start implementing the new farm bill until the shutdown ends.

Additionally, recent reports that the FDA is no longer conducting routine food safety inspections are alarming and totally unacceptable. The fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill will provide the funding necessary for the USDA and FDA to once again fulfill their regulatory duties and provide resources to Americans who are counting on them.

Let's reopen our local USDA offices. Let's restart routine inspections to ensure safety of our food system, and let's keep nutrition assistance programs going to make sure hungry families have food on their tables.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill and end the shutdown.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL), who serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and also the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, you may wonder why I am down here. It is because agriculture is huge in Michigan's 10th Congressional District.

Earlier this week, I spoke with most of the agriculture leaders in my district about these bills.

I would be supporting these bills under other conditions. It supports farm safety net programs as have been described. It provides support for rural development, including rural infrastructure and broadband access, which is sorely needed in the 10th Congressional District of Michigan.

It provides food and drug safety inspections for the FDA and USDA, and nutrition assistance programs that my colleague discussed.

However, I cannot support these bills because it is being brought up in bad faith. Let's be honest. It is a charade. It is not a serious attempt to fund agriculture or any other programs in my district or throughout this country. This vote is dead on arrival.

It is a messaging point by the Democrat majority. It is an attempt to delay and distract from the real problem. The real problem is securing our borders, a comprehensive package to secure our borders that the President, the administration, has provided to the Democrat majority.

We have spent hours on the floor here talking about various bills to fund the majority. Yet, somehow, rather than negotiate, the Democrat majority will go to the White House and say nothing for the wall; nothing for border security to put a barrier up. We will simply talk about, nope, we are not going to do that. We want to put the squeeze on the American people.

They are squeezing the people in multiple ways. People won't get their paychecks tomorrow. I am sorry. Really, guys? Come on. We have farmers that are struggling, waiting to get loans so that they can plant. We are not securing our border.

We had a humanitarian crisis. Thirty percent of the women that are arriving at the border—Doctors Without Borders data, not anybody else's—have been sexually assaulted on the way to the border. This proposal includes money to provide for applying for asylum in their home countries. Why are we not doing this?

Why are we not addressing a comprehensive border security package and passing all of these appropriations bills and moving on to other priorities? We may disagree about those.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, we may disagree about what some of those priorities are, but why are we spending 2 weeks rather than spend 2 hours negotiating an outcome and getting done with this problem? Let's grow up. Let's be adults and solve the problems instead of bickering.

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

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

Madam Speaker, at this point I would just like to say that it is unconscionable that we will hold the American people hostage in denying them the services and the protections of their government, the much-needed paychecks for the workers employed by these agencies, simply to satisfy the ego of someone at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who is the chairman of the authorizing Committee on Energy and Commerce.

□ 1315

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, this bill is really important. It would provide funding for our critical food, nutrition, and rural development agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration.

What we are really asking is to keep the government open. There may be disagreement about the wall and some aspects of border security, but that shouldn't hold hostage these important spending bills that keep the government going.

I wanted to talk about the FDA. The FDA is one of our most critical public health agencies overseeing food, medical products, cosmetics, and tobacco, products that account for 20 cents of every dollar spent by U.S. consumers.

As a result of the Trump government shutdown, the FDA has had to cease a number of important activities that keep our Nation's food and drugs safe for all Americans.

For example, the FDA has stopped conducting nearly two-thirds of the domestic food inspections that the agency typically conducts, putting our Nation's food supply and food safety system at risk. This comes on the heels of a multi-State national recall of romaine lettuce in November and December. This stoppage should be alarming to all of us.

The FDA has halted routine inspections at food, drug, device, and compounding facilities. It stopped accepting any new medical product applications unless the application is within a small subset that did not require a user fee. This includes applications for new generic drugs that may bring further competition to the pharmaceutical market.

The FDA has ceased any activities related to over-the-counter products.

It put on hold any enforcement activities related to medical products or facilities that have been found to be in violation of the law.

What we are seeing are no inspections, no enforcement activities. And, today, more than 6,000 FDA employees are furloughed, and another 1,000 are working without pay.

This Trump shutdown has had a dramatic effect on our economy, our Federal employees, and the functioning of our government. Agency heads are

being forced to plan without knowledge of whether the shutdown will last another day, another week, or another month. These are real lives that are being impacted.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate majority leader and the President to support this bill so we can restore funding to the FDA so that consumers continue to have safe food and medical supplies.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who serves on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member on the House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Mr. ADERHOLT, for yielding, as well as for his strong leadership on behalf of our agricultural community.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill before us today. Throughout last year, the House Appropriations Committee worked on a bipartisan basis to find common ground for fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills, including the vitally important Agriculture appropriations legislation.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today does not reflect those bipartisan efforts. As I have been sharing with my constituents, the bill before us has never had a hearing in this body, has never had a markup in this body, and now has no opportunity for amendments to be offered.

By taking up this bill, unfortunately, House Democrats are effectively writing off the people's House and shirking our responsibilities by deferring to the U.S. Senate. My constituents' priorities—and I would submit those of constituents of my colleagues across the aisle—deserve to be heard.

I offered two important amendments to the Agriculture appropriations bill in the Rules Committee this week. Both amendments previously passed unanimously in the Appropriations Committee and, rightfully, should be in the bill before us.

The first was a bipartisan amendment I offered with my colleague, SANFORD BISHOP, who was the then-ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The amendment would have upheld the longstanding prohibition of releasing proprietary SNAP sales data of food retailers.

Due to a decision last year in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, USDA will be required to release the SNAP redemption data of all retail stores across the United States. The result will be irreparable harm to competition in the food retail marketplace. My amendment sought to prevent the closure of grocery stores in both rural and urban areas by upholding this longstanding USDA practice.

The second bipartisan amendment passed unanimously in the Appropria-

tions Committee directed USDA to work with H-2A agency partners to modernize, develop, and implement an online application system for the H-2A program.

I constantly hear from farmers in central Washington about how inefficient the H-2A program operates due to the continued use of paper-only applications. Many farmers have had to deal with lost applications and other logistical inefficiencies, making the H-2A program inconsistent and all too often an unreliable program for farmers.

This amendment supported the administration's regulatory task force reform efforts to modernize that program with technological advancements that would make the program more user-friendly. It demonstrated an important step to providing relief for farmers facing a broken bureaucratic maze when trying to access a reliable workforce.

Madam Speaker, these are just two of the many reasons that I am not supporting the bill before us. But there are other issues that must be pointed out, like the fact that the House bill made a major investment in the new broadband pilot program for rural America by adding an additional \$550 million in infrastructure for the unserved and underserved. This bill undercuts that by \$125 million.

In regard to the important matter of food and drug safety, our House bill included higher levels of funding for the FDA, which is critical to helping industry advance their medical products to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency.

The House bill included language to secure set-aside funds for persistent poverty counties in rural areas. This provision was vital to rural communities across the country that face challenges escaping poverty. Unfortunately, that is not included in this bill.

Lastly, the House bill included nearly \$30 million more for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for research that is vital to our Nation's food security priorities. Again, that is not included in this bill.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Appropriations Committee, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation. The bipartisan work conducted by House appropriators must be honored. We should not abdicate our responsibility and the voices of our constituents to the Senate.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just say that the gentleman from Washington makes some salient points. I agree with the gentleman that the Freedom of Information Act and the SNAP retail sales language is something that we would love to have and should be in this legislation.

Also, I look forward to working with the gentleman to take care of that as we move forward in the 116th Congress, as well as our work on the H-2A program, which is in bad need of repair.

And persistent poverty, the 10-20-30 program, we are happy that the gentleman is supportive and that the committee has been supportive. We look forward to making sure that that is implemented fully as we move forward.

But, right now, we have to open the government. We cannot afford to let this government remain closed to continue to hurt the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who is my classmate and the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for his distinguished leadership, and I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to mention several of the issues relevant to the jurisdiction of the Education and Labor Committee.

Madam Speaker, this legislation funds critical nutrition assistance programs that serve children and families. Nutrition programs are among the most important and cost-effective investments in the Federal budget.

Study after study demonstrates that freedom from hunger is the foundation that children and families need to lift themselves out of poverty. Beyond the tragedy of any child going to school on an empty stomach, we cannot expect hungry children to reach their full potential at school or to grow up into healthy adults unless they have proper nutrition.

This reckless shutdown has left our constituents with uncertainty and anxiety about their access to programs they rely on, such as WIC, SNAP, or school meals. Now, while these programs are still available and USDA is temporarily paying benefits, it is imperative that we secure funding for these vital programs to ensure that children and families are not left behind.

This should not be a controversial bill. But the shutdown has created a crisis, so we are not going to go back and forth over the details. We are going to pass a bill.

The Republican Senate passed this exact language with overwhelming support last year, and we have to pass something. Some have said we shouldn't pass this bill, but they have not said we should pass anything. We have to pass a bill to reopen the government.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), who is a member of the authorizing House Committee on Agriculture. He represents an area in California that is called the salad bowl of our country.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this legislation, along with the other bills that we have been voting on, is about doing our job.

It is about reopening government. It is about reestablishing Congress as a co-equal branch of government.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan funding bill for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

The day before the government shutdown began, the President signed into law the 2018 farm bill, after much debate and work. As a member of the conference committee, we negotiated the farm bill in good faith. Therefore, it has been incredibly disappointing to see the shutdown prevent key pieces of the legislation from taking effect. Examples of the impacts in my district are the following.

One such program allows a company in my district to deliver fresh California produce to our local school districts to improve the quality of food for the children. This contractor now is not allowed to be paid.

They are among many of the subcontractors who do business with governmental entities. Because of the shutdown, the USDA cannot pay them to provide services, putting in jeopardy the future of their businesses and people who work for them, and the delivery, in this case, of healthy fruits and vegetables to our local schools.

Additionally, if the shutdown lingers into March, it is uncertain how millions of Americans, including one-quarter of my constituents, will receive SNAP benefits. These are young people; these are elderly; and these are part of the working poor. The future funding for the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program is also at risk.

Without passing the bill before us today, valley dairymen and almond farmers in my district, and many other producers across the Nation, will not be able to sign up for retaliatory tariff relief payments, and the impacts of these tariff wars have been significant throughout the country.

In addition, farmers cannot sign up for newly revamped conservation programs that I helped pass in the farm bill. These programs are vital for California agriculture, where farmers work through drought years and continue their responsible stewardship of the land.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 20 seconds.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, farmers cannot sign up for new crop insurance as well to help them manage risks as we approach the planting season, and farming is a risky business.

What is more, food safety is put at risk while food inspectors are forced to work without pay.

Madam Speaker, it is time to pass this bill so that the USDA and the FDA can go back to work for Americans. We should do our job. It is irresponsible to shut down government and leverage American citizens in this fashion.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 5¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and who is also the chief deputy whip.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership in bringing this legislation, which I support, to the floor, legislation that would fund the Department of Agriculture for the rest of the year.

This bill would end part of the shutdown that this President has orchestrated and fund the Department of Agriculture, which helps people from going hungry and supports our farmers.

□ 1330

With the shutdown of the Department of Agriculture, we are not implementing the farm bill that we passed here, which means we are not helping increase access to fruits and vegetables through programs like the Double Up Food Bucks program in Michigan. We are not helping struggling farmers sign up for crop insurance, our best risk mitigation tool. The agriculture industry is already being hurt by President Trump's poor trade practices. This is just another attack on them.

Also, programs cannot proceed to address drinking water needs in our rural communities. We have places like Oscoda in my home district experiencing a drinking water emergency from PFAS. They have relied on the Department of Agriculture for help. That help won't be available.

By passing this bill, we put thousands of Michigan workers back to work. We ensure families who rely on food nutrition assistance will get the help they need. Right now, they are only guaranteed that help through the end of February.

Additionally, there are contractors who are essentially doing much of the same work as government employees but are not getting paid and will not see a paycheck when all of this is over.

During this Trump shutdown, these hardworking employees don't know where their next paycheck is coming from. They can't turn to their parents like some can when they run out of money to pay their bills. They need help for healthcare. They need help to pay for childcare. They need to be able to cover their housing costs. They need to be able to buy food for their families. They can't plan for their own future when they don't know what they are going to be able to do next week.

President Trump is using these families and farmers who work or depend on the Department of Agriculture as

pawns in a political game. We may have disagreements, but we should never, ever shut the government down in order to achieve something that the President and his party are unwilling to submit to the legislative process.

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

As I noted earlier, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee received over 350 Members who came before our subcommittee and submitted requests. Many of those requests included support for animal disease and for plant pests destroying agriculture products. Let me just give an example of some that we heard.

The House bill included \$15 million to fight the pest from China called the spotted lanternfly. This pest is destroying fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals in the mid-Atlantic States.

The House bill included \$5 million more for the oriental fruit fly that ravaged south Florida.

The House bill and also the House report included higher amounts for the citrus greening disease killing the orange groves across Florida.

I can give numerous examples of other House priorities and directives included in the House bill and report by the majority that have been dismissed by the Senate bill. Like I said, these are just some examples that our Members have requested. It has been important to their districts. They thought it was very important for agriculture in their regions.

Again, by us adopting the bill today, we would be doing this for nothing.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the chair-designate of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pass this bill, which would fund agricultural and nutrition programs that are vital to our Nation's farmers and well-being. I also rise to ask that my colleagues refrain from turning millions of hardworking SNAP recipients into pawns in a shutdown fight over a feckless border wall.

While the President continues to insist on shutting down key agencies like the USDA, our Nation's farmers are facing uncertainty. Every month, USDA releases the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, which provides important information about the size of crop harvests. However, due to the shutdown, the USDA is unable to send out this highly anticipated report, casting doubt on the agricultural commodities markets.

Even worse, the shutdown has forced USDA to stop providing assistance to



the thousands of farmers feeling intense pressure from President Trump's ridiculous trade war. Agriculture is the number two economic driver of Florida's economy.

This shutdown could also potentially affect our public health. The FDA cannot accept any new regulatory submissions during the shutdown. This means that food and drug manufacturers can't provide documentation to the agency to verify compliance with safety regulations.

The FDA has also been forced to cut back inspections of food processing facilities, putting public health at risk. Essential inspectors are working without pay. The FDA sets targets for inspections, and the shutdown will prevent the agency from meeting those targets.

Finally, we must pass this bill to avoid potentially disastrous effects on Americans suffering from food insecurity. SNAP, also known as food stamps, is a crucial program that helps these Americans put food on the table, but SNAP is estimated to have only enough funding to last until February. After that, Federal law requires USDA to ration any available funding among SNAP recipients.

If President Trump continues to refuse to reopen the government, almost 3.7 million people in Florida may lose the assistance that helps feed their families. That would be a shameful situation for the wealthiest nation on Earth.

The longer the shutdown goes on, the bigger the impact will be on our Nation's food safety and health. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill because people's livelihoods and well-being are on the line.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), who is another member of the Appropriations Committee. He, of course, chaired the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee in the 115th Congress.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, here is the sad truth which, by the way, everybody knows, unfortunately: This bill, if passed, will not reopen the Federal Government.

By the way, how do I know that? Because this bill already passed last week. It is sitting in the Senate. It has not reopened the Federal Government. This is another false attempt to fool the American people.

Some of the great Appropriations members of our time would be rolling in their graves right now if they knew that the House is taking up a Senate bill with zero input and zero amendments from any Member of the House—not one Member of the House. So, obviously, we should reject this flawed strategy.

But I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ADERHOLT, for speaking about some of the specifics. I want to just talk about a couple of specifics in this bill where it falls, frankly, very,

very, very, very short. Let me talk about a couple issues that are very important to Florida.

Citrus is a key, critical industry for Florida. This bill does not adequately fund citrus greening research. It falls seriously short on funding something that is so important for the survival of our farmers and the industry in Florida.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it falls short on combating the oriental fruit fly, another critical issue for our farmers in Florida.

We have to recall that Florida is still recovering from the devastation caused by recent hurricanes. This bill falls short in helping the farmers in the State of Florida.

But as I said at the beginning, Mr. Speaker, if that wasn't enough, this is all a charade.

By the way, do you know what the sad part is, Mr. Speaker? I am going to be proven right.

Last week, a lot of us said that about those bills that our friends on the other side of the aisle said were going to reopen the government. Do you know who was proven right and who was proven wrong? We are going to be proven right again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFFRIES). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. This is a sham. I would ask, respectfully, to defeat this bill, which is a charade, a sham, and will not open the Federal Government. Everybody knows that. Everybody knows that it will not reopen the Federal Government. It doesn't have any input from the House and falls shorts for Florida farmers and other farmers around the country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, as it has already been said by many of my colleagues here on the Republican side, that this bill serves only to give a false impression that the new majority is trying to resolve our funding differences.

The American people want and need both enhanced border security and funding of remaining government agencies that are operating on limited staff currently, as we speak. This bill is really an affront to the House of Representatives and to the citizens who elected them to serve them because, as has been said over and over this afternoon, there has been no input from any of the 435 House Members into this legislation.

Therefore, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation that is before us this afternoon, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to

the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), as I prepare to close and urge my colleagues to open the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and all the agencies. He is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Ways and Means. He also represents the salad bowl of this country.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we, unfortunately, are enduring our government's second longest government shutdown since 1981.

I realize that some call it a partial government shutdown, but let me tell you, there is nothing partial about the lost wages that our Federal workers are encountering, there is nothing partial about the lost income that our small business owners are enduring, and there is nothing partial about the lost services that my farmers in the salad bowl of the world will experience during this shutdown.

That is why it has fallen on all of us in this Congress to make whole the victims of the shutdown. And it starts today by passing this Agriculture Appropriations act.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I was proud to have passed and have signed into law the 2018 farm bill. But if this shutdown doesn't end soon, there are many provisions of that farm bill that will not be implemented.

Why? The USDA is closed, the Farm Service Agency is shuttered, agricultural research is suspended, organic certification programs are stopped, and families may not get their benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Those are just part of the problems with this partial government shutdown, a shutdown in which all of our farmers will be affected. That is why all of us in this government must do our job and live up to our responsibility to govern. Some may call it a charade. We call it governing. That is why I ask my colleagues to pass this Agriculture Appropriations Act.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in supporting House passage today of the long overdue FY 2019 Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill which will help bring an end to the reckless shutdown for the agencies, programs, and federal employees that are covered by this measure.

We need to pass this bill today, and the Senate needs to follow suit, to help stave off some of the worst consequences that face some of the most vulnerable as a result of the President's reckless decision.

If the partial government shutdown, which the President is so proud to have caused, continues there may not be sufficient appropriations for food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to provide full benefits or any benefits. USDA recently announced it was making moves to try and delay the inevitable for these programs. But that is just a stall—one of the many desperate actions by an Administration

apparently just now starting to realize the damage it is inflicting across America.

To make his case, the President held a national press conference earlier this week to sell his made up “crisis” along the Southern border. A “crisis” that experts say is not happening. Border apprehensions are at lows not seen in nearly two decades. The “crisis,” if any exists, is his policy of denying asylum seekers their legal right to make their claims.

President Trump inflicted this chaotic shutdown on the American people to try and bully the nation into building his vanity wall.

Well, let me tell you about the real crisis that he is creating in millions of households across the country from the dedicated federal employees who have been sent home without pay or those working without pay who are wondering how they will pay rent or their mortgage and their bills now that the federal government has broken faith with them.

Or the real crisis this Administration is creating for the millions of families and individuals who depend on SNAP and WIC to help keep food on the table. In my home state, that includes hundreds of thousands of women, children, seniors, low-income military veterans, and the disabled who are already struggling. These harms aren't hypothetical, folks. Hunger is real in our country and millions of Americans are struggling to put food on the table. And the Trump Shutdown is only making it harder to do.

One estimate is that if USDA does not have enough funding on hand to pay full benefits and provide partial funding spread evenly across all SNAP households, it would result in an average benefit cut per household of at least \$90 or close to 40 percent.

Similarly, benefits available through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are at risk. WIC is such an important program that helps provide targeted nutrition and other services to at-risk women. This program has helped improve breastfeeding rates among its target population and saves lives and money for the taxpayer. Over 7 million mothers, pregnant women, and children rely on WIC.

WIC clinics are currently open and operating normally but that funding will run out if the shutdown continues. If the shutdown continues as long as the President wants it to, WIC agencies may be forced to start waiting lists for benefits, freeze new applications, furlough staff, or close clinics in the face of declining or no funding.

And even with doors open, the uncertainty created by the shutdown may be discouraging eligible individuals from reaching out to WIC for support, undermining the program's purpose.

And we will all pay in the end if taxpayers have to bear health care expenses and other costs for individuals that could have been avoided.

The bill before us, that the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved last year, will ensure that these critical benefits continue to be paid and that families can continue to put food on the table.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this special order to speak against the devastating cuts being proposed for the Farm Bill's Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP).

The \$20.5 billion cuts would remove 2 million Americans from the food assistance pro-

gram, and 210,000 children would lose access to free school meals.

The House Democrats' bill, is virtually identical to legislation that has already passed the Senate on a 92–6 vote, will reopen these agencies and stop some of the worst impacts of the Trump Shutdown on families, businesses, and communities.

It provides \$23.235 billion in discretionary funding, \$225 million above the FY2018 enacted level. In addition, it provides the latest estimates for mandatory programs required by law—including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Child Nutrition Programs. It will ensure that the Department of Agriculture and the FDA are both able to operate through September 30.

This bill rejects President Trump's proposed budget cuts to agriculture, rural development, and conservation programs. It includes funding for rural broadband that President Trump had proposed eliminating.

Finally, the bill rejects President Trump's proposed elimination of Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, both which provide lifesaving food assistance overseas.

For one in six Americans hunger is real and far too many people assume that problems with hunger are isolated in small pockets of the country. That is not the case—hunger is persistent and the impacts real for millions of people who struggle to find enough to eat.

According to Feeding America:

In 2016, 46.2 million people were in poverty, 1.1 million people are food insecure in the Houston area, 2.4 million rural households face hunger;

Three-quarters of the counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are in rural areas; 86% of the counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity are rural;

In 2017, there were 39.7 million people in poverty.

There are 3.7 million Texans at risk of losing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if the Trump Shutdown does not end.

The more important statistic is how many other Americans will have their local grocery store put at risk of closing or having reduced supplies of groceries to serve their customers because of the economic chaos that will ensue if SNAP benefits across the nation are ended due to the shutdown.

Most Americans have no idea how SNAP, Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Food and Nutrition Service and other federal food subsidy programs contribute to the affordability of food found in grocery stores.

For grocers, convenience stores and other food retailers, the suspension of funding for the food-stamp program, or SNAP, comes at a time when they cannot afford to lose sales.

Over 3,500 grocery and convenience stores operate on a 1% profit margin, with the proposed cuts to the SNAP program, these stores will experience a large decrease in profit.

There is no feasible way to absorb any kind of decrease in sales.

The abrupt end of SNAP, WIC and other Federal food subsidy program funding that is spent at local grocers would be devastating to all large grocery store chains.

In 2016, more than 52% of SNAP dollars, or \$33 billion, were redeemed at big-box stores such as Walmart Inc. and Target Corp., up

from 47% in 2015, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show.

Big retailers routinely notice a bump in sales around the time states disperse SNAP money to recipients each month.

Walmart generates roughly \$13 billion in annual sales from SNAP transactions, accounting for around 18% of the money spent through the program nationwide.

Some retailers serve regions where more than one-third of shoppers buy groceries with food stamps, without this money most of these stores will not be able to maintain the diverse food choices that are usually available to their consumers.

The retailer with the highest risk of lost sales is Walmart which receives roughly 56% of its food sales.

Dollar General, gets about 5 percent of its sales from SNAP benefits and their traffic slowed tremendously during the last government shutdown, they can't afford the same outcome this year.

President Trump has previously demonstrated a hostility towards the SNAP program in his proposal that retailers pay a fee for authorization to accept food stamps.

The government's overall SNAP spending declines when the economy improves and fewer people rely on the program and this means that grocery store customers are instead using funds from employment or other sources instead.

A government shutdown will have a depressing effect on grocery store sales and compounding this will be a cut in SNAP and WIC funds.

Government low wage workers will be seeking SNAP and WIC assistance as they work to cope with not being paid.

Dean said cutting benefits when people's financial situations are not improving could mean they use money they otherwise would have spent on needs like clothing or even medicine to make up for the gaps in their food budget. So there's still an impact to the overall economy, she said.

A report by the USDA in 2010 also said that boosting SNAP benefits during economic downturns starts a “multiplier process” in transactions and consumption. It found that boosting SNAP expenditures by \$1 billion was estimated to increase economic activity by \$1.79 billion.

Unfortunately, benefits cannot be increased as a direct consequence of the shutdown.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. SNAP is the largest program in the American domestic hunger safety net.

If the Trump Shutdown extends for weeks or months, the damage to the food economy may not be easily repaired.

The Child Nutrition Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Feeding, Summer Food Service and Special Milk will continue operations into February according to the Department of Agriculture.

We cannot afford to create food deserts and greater hunger in our country.

While prices for agricultural products are not expected to be significantly altered in the short term, an extended shutdown coupled with ongoing trade tensions could impact the ability for farmers to operate in the domestic and international marketplace.

The following USDA activities have been shut down during the government funding lapse:

Provision of new rural development loans and grants for housing, community facilities, utilities and businesses.

All recreation sites across the U.S. National Forest System, unless they are operated by external parties under a recreational special use permit.

New timber sales.

Most forest fuels reduction activities in and around communities.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) statistics, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, and other agricultural economic and statistical reports and projections. Investigation of packers and stockyards related to fraudulent and anti-competitive activities.

Assistance for the control of most plant and animal pests and diseases unless funded by cooperators or other non-appropriated sources.

Research facilities except for the care for animals, plants and associated infrastructure to preserve agricultural research. Provision of new grants or processing of payments for existing grants to support research, education, and extension.

ERS Commodity Outlook Reports, Data Products, research reports, staff analysis, and projections. The ERS public website has been taken offline.

Most departmental management, administrative and oversight functions, including civil rights, human resources, financial management, audit, investigative, legal and information technology activities.

Mandatory Audits (Financial Statements, FISMA, and potentially Improper Payments) will be suspended and may not be completed and released on the date mandated by law.

Farm loans and some farm payments (including direct payments, market assistance loans, market facilitation payments for those producers who have not certified production, and disaster assistance programs).

The Agriculture Industry has been harmed by the tariff battles that President Trump started and continues to wage.

Funding was put in the Farm Bill that passed in December to offer some relief that will not come until the shutdown ends.

I ask my Colleagues to join me in voting for the passage of this bill.

President Trump needs to end this shutdown now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ADERHOLT. I am, in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Aderholt moves to recommit the bill H.R. 265 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to

the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 2, line 7, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,000,000)”.

Page 2, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,000,000)”.

Page 2, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,000,000)”.

Page 3, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 3, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 4, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

Page 5, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$34,000,000)”.

Page 5, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 6, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$58,000,000)”.

Page 17, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 66, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 100, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$125,000,000)”.

Mr. ADERHOLT (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit restores a House priority that had overwhelming support when we put together the FY 2019 Agriculture bill during the last Congress.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, our House bill last year placed a high priority on delivery of broadband to the unserved and underserved populations in rural America. Eighty percent of the 24 million American households that do not have reliable, affordable, high-speed internet, are in rural areas.

□ 1345

That is according to the most recent report by the Federal Communications Commission. Again, 80 percent are in rural areas.

Reliable and affordable internet connectivity is fundamental for economic activity throughout the United States. It is also a fundamental need for rural American households, for schools, and for healthcare centers.

The National Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force recommended connectivity for all rural Americans because it has become a modern-day necessity. It is not simply an amenity anymore. In today's information age and where we live today, it is driving our global economy.

Our House appropriation bill last year included \$550 million for this new

pilot program. This motion that is now before us will simply add an additional \$125 million to the \$440 million in the bill before us today.

This higher level will not fully address the multi-billion-dollar requirement to address rural broadband internet needs, but it is a wise and necessary investment.

The new rural broadband program that was designed by USDA this year takes into account lessons learned from prior-year broadband initiatives.

The new pilot program is a good balance between grants to the neediest communities and low-cost loans to those communities and citizens that can afford the loans.

Mr. Speaker, you might not find a great deal of agreement between the priorities of President Trump and former President Obama, but the vital need for rural broadband is one of those things. This motion is a modest proposal that all of us feel obligated to support, regardless of your politics.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as many know, I have been and will continue to be an advocate and a supporter of rural broadband expansion. I view it as an obligation to provide adequate service for everyone, as it is vital to health, safety, the economy, and the welfare of all of our rural communities.

The \$425 million that is provided in this bill will complement the \$600 million that was provided in the FY 2018 bill, which has not yet been spent.

USDA recently completed the program design, and it can now begin implementing and, if this bill is enacted, awarding over \$1 billion in broadband expansion funding to the communities that need it the most.

This funding is in addition to the other programs that assist communities in getting broadband services, including the Community Connect Program, the Broadband Loan Program, and the Distance Learning and Telecommunication Program.

We have funding in the works to accomplish the needs for rural broadband. We need to pass this bill because we need to open the government. We need to make sure that USDA and the Food and Drug Administration and all of the agencies that are shut down will open, and open quickly, to support the needs of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that this motion to recommit be rejected, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 28, I call up the bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 267

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$113,535,000, of which not to exceed \$3,001,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$1,040,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed \$20,428,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$10,265,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed \$14,019,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed \$2,550,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed \$29,244,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed \$2,142,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed \$1,835,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed \$12,325,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; and not to exceed \$16,686,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Sec-

retary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$60,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, excluding fees authorized in Public Law 107–71, there may be credited to this appropriation up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

#### RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, \$8,471,000, of which \$2,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

#### NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, \$1,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded to a State, local government, transit agency, port authority, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact: *Provided further*, That projects eligible for funding provided under this heading shall include, but not be limited to, highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code; public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry): *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the Secretary may use an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for funding under this heading: *Provided further*, That grants awarded under the previous proviso shall not be subject to a minimum grant size: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 20 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, or sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210), as amended, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds, an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas, and the investment in a variety of transportation modes: *Provided further*, That a grant funded under this heading shall be not less than \$5,000,000 and not greater than \$25,000,000: *Provided further*,

That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under this heading shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 80 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That not less than 30 percent of the funds provided under this heading shall be for projects located in rural areas: *Provided further*, That for projects located in rural areas, the minimum grant size shall be \$1,000,000 and the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent: *Provided further*, That projects conducted using funds provided under this heading must comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall conduct a new competition to select the grants and credit assistance awarded under this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to \$25,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading, and may transfer portions of those funds to the Administrators of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Maritime Administration to fund the award and oversight of grants and credit assistance made under the National Infrastructure Investments program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in the previous proviso may be used to hire additional personnel: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consider and award projects based solely on the selection criteria from the fiscal year 2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not use the Federal share or an applicant's ability to generate non-Federal revenue as a selection criteria in awarding projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Notice of Funding Opportunity shall require application submissions 90 days after the publishing of such Notice: *Provided further*, That of the applications submitted under the previous two provisos, the Secretary shall make grants no later than 270 days after enactment of this Act in such amounts that the Secretary determines: *Provided further*, That such sums provided for national infrastructure investments for passenger rail transportation projects under title I of division C of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 641), shall remain available for expenditure through fiscal year 2019 for the liquidation of valid obligations of active grants incurred in fiscal year 2012: *Provided further*, That such sums provided for national infrastructure investments for port infrastructure projects under title VIII of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6; 127 Stat. 432) shall remain available through fiscal year 2020 for the liquidation of valid obligations of active grants incurred in fiscal year 2013: *Provided further*, That the 2 preceding provisos shall be applied as if they were in effect on September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That after calculating the distribution of obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways for fiscal year 2019 under section 120(a), the obligation limitation shall be reduced by \$52,000,000 to a total of \$45,216,596,000: *Provided further*, That the reduction in the preceding proviso shall be applied to the obligation limitation determined under section 120(a)(4) for the TIFIA program (as defined in section 601(a) of title 23, United States Code).

NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND  
INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU

For necessary expenses of the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 116, \$2,987,000, to remain available until expended.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, \$2,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, and implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, \$15,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$9,470,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND  
DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, \$7,879,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$1,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses for the Interagency Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center (IIPIC): *Provided further*, That there may be transferred to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, amounts transferred from other Federal agencies for expenses incurred under this heading for IIPIC activities not related to transportation infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the tools and analysis developed by the IIPIC shall be available to other Federal agencies for the permitting and review of major infrastructure projects not related to transportation only to the extent that other Federal agencies provide funding to the Department as provided for under the previous proviso.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$203,883,000, shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, sub-activity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER  
PROGRAM

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Resource Center, the provision of financial education outreach activities to eligible transportation-related small busi-

nesses, the monitoring of existing loans in the guaranteed loan program, and the modification of such loans of the Minority Business Resource Center, \$249,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *Provided*, That notwithstanding that section, these funds may be for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS  
UTILIZATION AND OUTREACH

For necessary expenses for small and disadvantaged business utilization and outreach activities, \$3,488,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 through 41742, \$175,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under subsection 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to enter into a new contract with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share: *Provided further*, That amounts authorized to be distributed for the essential air service program under subsection 41742(b) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made available immediately from amounts otherwise provided to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration: *Provided further*, That the Administrator may reimburse such amounts from fees credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Council on Credit and Finance, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Council on Credit and Finance to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

SEC. 103. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide partial or full payments in advance and accept subsequent reimbursements from all Federal agencies from available funds for transit benefit distribution services that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order No. 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109-59: *Provided*, That the Department shall maintain a reasonable operating reserve in the Working Capital Fund, to be

expended in advance to provide uninterrupted transit benefits to Government employees: *Provided further*, That such reserve will not exceed one month of benefits payable and may be used only for the purpose of providing for the continuation of transit benefits: *Provided further*, That the Working Capital Fund will be fully reimbursed by each customer agency from available funds for the actual cost of the transit benefit.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, the lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, in addition to amounts made available by Public Law 112-95, \$10,410,758,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which \$9,833,400,000 shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of which not to exceed \$7,843,427,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities; not to exceed \$1,334,377,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities; not to exceed \$24,981,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities; not to exceed \$816,562,000 shall be available for finance and management activities; not to exceed \$61,796,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities; not to exceed \$114,312,000 shall be available for security and hazardous materials safety; and not to exceed \$215,303,000 shall be available for staff offices: *Provided*, That not to exceed 5 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 5 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108-176: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a non-profit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the

funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$168,000,000 shall be used to fund direct operations of the current 254 air traffic control towers in the contract tower program, including the contract tower cost share program, and any airport that is currently qualified or that will qualify for the program during the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the Contract Weather Observers program at any airport: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, up to \$6,000,000 shall be used for providing matching funds to qualified commercial entities seeking to demonstrate or validate technologies that the Federal Aviation Administration considers essential to the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the National Airspace System at Federal Aviation Administration designated UAS test sites: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall identify essential integration technologies that could be demonstrated or validated at test sites designated in accordance with the preceding proviso.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT  
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, \$3,000,000,000, of which \$512,823,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, \$2,362,977,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and \$124,200,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Pro-*

*vided further*, That no later than March 31, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress an investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT  
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, \$191,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, \$3,000,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of \$3,350,000,000 in fiscal year 2019, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Government's share of allowable project costs under paragraph (2) for subgrants or paragraph (3) of that section shall be 95 percent for a project at other than a large or medium hub airport that is a successive phase of a multiphased construction project for which the project sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011 for the construction project: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds limited under this heading, not more than \$112,600,000 shall be available for administration, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, not less than \$33,210,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to "Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses" to carry

out the Small Community Air Service Development Program: *Provided further*, That in addition to airports eligible under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code, such program may include the participation of an airport that serves a community or consortium that is not larger than a small hub airport, according to FAA hub classifications effective at the time the Office of the Secretary issues a request for proposals.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

For an additional amount for "Grants-In-Aid for Airports", to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by subchapter 1 of chapter 471 and subchapter 1 of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, \$750,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, and such funds shall not be subject to apportionment formulas, special apportionment categories, or minimum percentages under chapter 471: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to airports: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program set forth in any Act: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may retain up to 0.5 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the award and oversight by the Administrator of grants made under this heading.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL  
AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on "below-market" rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the Federal Aviation Administration for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate

through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situational Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 118. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than eight political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigation products and explains how such fees are consistent with Executive Order 13642.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds in this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds appropriated or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds provided under this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold from consideration and approval any new application for participation in the Contract Tower Program, or for reevaluation of Cost-share Program participants, as long as the Federal Aviation Administration has received an application from the airport, and as long as the Administrator determines such tower is eligible using the factors set forth in the Federal Aviation Administration report, Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Airport Traffic Control Towers (FAA-APO-90-7 as of August, 1990).

SEC. 119D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to limit the use of an Organization Designation Authorization's (ODA) delegated functions documented in its procedures manual on a type certification project unless the Administrator documents a systemic airworthiness noncompliance performance issue as a result of inspection or oversight that the safety of air commerce requires a limitation with regard to a specific authorization or where an ODA's capability has not been previously established in terms of a new compliance method or design feature: *Provided*, That in such cases the Federal Aviation Administration shall work with the ODA holder if requested to develop the capability to execute that function safely, efficiently and effectively.

SEC. 119E. (a) TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST.—The Administrator shall permit an

air carrier operation under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to operate to a destination determined to be under visual flight rules without a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast or Meteorological Aerodrome Report if a current Area Forecast, supplemented by other local weather observations or reports, is available, and an alternate airport that has an available Terminal Aerodrome Forecast and weather report is specified. The air carrier shall have approved procedures for dispatch and en route weather evaluation and shall operate under instrument flight rules en route to the destination.

(b) LIMITATION.—Without a written finding of necessity, based on objective and historical evidence of imminent threat to safety, the Administrator shall not promulgate any operation specification, policy, or guidance document that is more restrictive than, or requires procedures that are not expressly stated in, the regulations.

SEC. 119F. Of the funds provided under the heading "Grants-in-aid for Airports", up to \$3,500,000 shall be for necessary expenses, including an independent verification regime, to provide reimbursement to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service, and for direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports are closed solely due to the actions of the Federal Government: *Provided*, That no funds shall be obligated or distributed to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services until an independent audit is completed: *Provided further*, That losses incurred as a result of violations of law, or through fault or negligence, of such operators and service providers or of third parties (including airports) are not eligible for reimbursements: *Provided further*, That obligation and expenditure of funds are conditional upon full release of the United States Government for all claims for financial losses resulting from such actions.

#### REPORT ON NEXTGEN IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 119G. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of NextGen at commercial service airports in the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number and percentage of commercial service airports in the United States that have fully implemented NextGen.

(2) The percentage completion of NextGen implementation at each commercial service airport in the United States.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD TO DETERMINE PERCENTAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEXTGEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a standard for determining under subsection (b)(2) the percentage completion of NextGen implementation at commercial service airports in the United States based on factors that may include an accounting of efficiency benefits achieved, the degree of NextGen technology and infrastructure installed, and the extent of controller training on NextGen.

(2) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a) the standard developed under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) NEXTGEN.—The term "NextGen" means the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

#### FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND) (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed \$446,444,304, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated for necessary expenses for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, \$3,248,000 shall be transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

#### FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS (LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act shall not exceed total obligations of \$45,268,596,000 for fiscal year 2019: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to administrative expenses that are also available for such purpose, and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

#### (LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, \$46,007,596,000 derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

#### HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

There is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation \$3,300,000,000: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, shall be in addition to any funds provided for fiscal year 2019 in this or any other Act for "Federal-aid Highways" under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, and shall not affect the distribution or amount of funds provided in any other Act: *Provided further*, That section 1101(b) of Public Law 114-94 shall apply to funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$2,389,200,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of title 23, United States Code, \$15,800,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program as described in section 165(b)(2)(C) of such title, \$5,000,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Territorial Highway Program, as described in section 165(c)(6) of such title, \$90,000,000 shall be set aside for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings, as described in section 130(e)(1)(A) of such title, and \$800,000,000 shall be set aside for a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program for States: *Provided*

further, That for purposes of this heading, the term “State” means any of the 50 States or the District of Columbia: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of title 23, United States Code, shall be suballocated in the manner described in section 133(d) of such title, except that the set-aside described in section 133(h) of such title shall not apply to funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for (1) activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of such title (2) the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings, and (3) a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of such title and shall remain available through September 30, 2022: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of title 23, United States Code, shall be apportioned to the States in the same ratio as the obligation limitation for fiscal year 2019 is distributed among the States in section 120(a)(5) of this Act: *Provided further*, That, except as provided in the following proviso, the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program and activities eligible under the Territorial Highway Program shall be administered as if allocated under sections 165(b) and 165(c), respectively, of such title and shall remain available through September 30, 2022: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program shall not be subject to the requirements of sections 165(b)(2)(A) or 165(b)(2)(B) of such title: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings shall be apportioned to the States as described in sections 130(f)(1) and (f)(2) of such title: *Provided further*, That at least one-half of the funds made available to a State under this heading for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings shall be available for the installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings shall be subject to the special rule described in section 130(e)(2) of such title: *Provided further*, That projects carried out with funds made available under this heading for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings shall be (1) subject to sections 130(b), (c), and (j) of such title, (2) included in the annual report described in section 130(g) of such title, and (3) subject to the Federal share requirement described in section 130(f)(3) of such title: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings shall be (1) available for matching, as described in section 130(h) of such title, subject to the requirements of such section, (2) available for incentive payments, as described in section 130(i) of such title, subject to the requirements of such section, and (3) subject to the limitation in section 130(k) of such title: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program shall be used for highway bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects on public roads: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following proviso the funds made available under this heading for

a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program shall be used in areas of a State that have a population of 200,000 or fewer individuals: *Provided further*, That if a State has no bridges located in areas with a population of 200,000 or fewer individuals, or if a State has no bridge replacement or rehabilitation needs in areas of the State with a population of 200,000 or fewer individuals, the funds made available under this heading for a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program may be used for highway bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects on public roads in any area of the State: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall distribute funds made available under this heading for the bridge replacement and rehabilitation program to each State by the proportion that the percentage of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition in each State bears to the sum of the percentages of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition in all States: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this heading for the bridge replacement and rehabilitation program, the Secretary shall (1) calculate population based on the latest available data from the decennial census conducted under section 141(a) of title 13, United States Code, and (2) calculate the percentages of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition based on the National Bridge Inventory as of December 31, 2017.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(12) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code, or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of that title, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code, (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(12) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid highway programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2019, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States



having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) title VI of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid highway programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: *Provided*, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and

Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 124. None of the funds in this Act may be used to make a grant for a project under section 117 of title 23, United States Code, unless the Secretary, at least 60 days before making a grant under that section, provides written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the proposed grant, including an evaluation and justification for the project and the amount of the proposed grant award: *Provided*, That the written notification required in the previous proviso shall be made no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. (a) A State or territory, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may use for any project eligible under section 133(b) of title 23 or section 165 of title 23 and located within the boundary of the State or territory any earmarked amount, and any associated obligation limitation: *Provided*, That the Department of Transportation for the State or territory for which the earmarked amount was originally designated or directed notifies the Secretary of Transportation of its intent to use its authority under this section and submits a quarterly report to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability of funds to be obligated under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary of Transportation is notified. The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) In this section, the term "earmarked amount" means—

(1) congressionally directed spending, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(2) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) The authority under subsection (a) may be exercised only for those projects or activities that have obligated less than 10 percent of the amount made available for obligation as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and shall be applied to projects within the same general geographic area within 50 miles for which the funding was designated, except that a State or territory may apply such authority to unexpended balances of funds from projects or activities the State or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher.

(d) The Secretary shall submit consolidated reports of the information provided by the States and territories each quarter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND  
PROGRAMS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31110 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, \$284,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of \$284,000,000 for "Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs" for fiscal year 2019, of which \$9,073,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021, is for the research and technology program, and of which \$34,824,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021, is for information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31103, 31104, and 31313 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, \$382,800,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$382,800,000 in fiscal year 2019 for "Motor Carrier Safety Grants"; of which \$304,300,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$32,500,000 shall be available for the commercial driver's license program implementation program, \$44,000,000 shall be available for the high priority activities program, and \$2,000,000 shall be made available for commercial motor vehicle operators grants, of which \$1,000,000 is to be made available from prior year unobligated contract authority provided for Motor Carrier Safety grants in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178), SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59), or other appropriations or authorization acts.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR  
CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107-87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110-28.

SEC. 131. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of 49 CFR section 385.308 violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

SEC. 132. To the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall ensure the safe and timely completion of the flexible sleeper berth pilot program of the Administration.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, \$190,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2020.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, section 4011 of the FAST Act (Public Law 114-94), and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, \$152,100,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2019, are in excess of \$152,100,000, of which \$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and \$5,400,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That within the \$152,100,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402, 404, and 405, and section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, to remain available until expended, \$610,208,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2019, are in excess of \$610,208,000 for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402, 404, and 405, and section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, of which \$270,400,000 shall be for "Highway Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 402; \$283,000,000 shall be for "National Priority Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 405; \$30,200,000 shall be for "High Visibility Enforcement Program" under 23 U.S.C. 404; and \$26,608,000 shall be for "Administrative Expenses" under section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds made available for "National Priority Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 405 for "Impaired Driving Countermeasures" (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the "Transfers" provision under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(8), any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the previous proviso or under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(8) within 5 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL  
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. An additional \$130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

SEC. 141. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

SEC. 142. In addition to the amounts made available under the heading, "Operations and Research (Liquidation of Contract Authorization) (Limitation on Obligations) (Highway Trust Fund)" for carrying out the provisions of section 403 of title 23, United States Code, \$4,000,000 shall be available to continue a high visibility enforcement paid-media campaign regarding highway-rail grade crossing safety in collaboration with the Federal Railroad Administration.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION  
SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, \$221,698,000, of which \$15,900,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, \$40,600,000, to remain available until expended.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT  
FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-210), as amended, such authority shall exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding.

FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR STATE OF  
GOOD REPAIR

For necessary expenses related to Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grants as authorized by section 24911 of title 49, United States Code, \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under section 24911 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity that encompasses funds provided under this heading in this Act and previously unawarded funds provided under this heading in fiscal year 2017 by Public Law 115-31 and fiscal year 2018 by Public Law 115-141, no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall announce the selection of projects to receive awards for the funds in the previous proviso no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses related to Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants, as authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, \$255,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That section 24405(f) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to projects for the implementation of positive train control systems otherwise eligible

under section 24407(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts available under this heading for projects selected for commuter rail passenger transportation may be transferred by the Secretary, after selection, to the appropriate agencies to be administered in accordance with chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of the same project in the same application: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances remaining after 4 years from the date of enactment may be used for any eligible project under section 24407(c) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under section 24407 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity that encompasses previously unawarded funds provided under this heading in fiscal year 2018 by Public Law 115-141 and funds provided under this heading in this Act no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall announce the selection of projects to receive awards for the funds in the previous proviso no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

For necessary expenses related to Restoration and Enhancement Grants, as authorized by section 24408 of title 49, United States Code, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the costs of award and project management and oversight: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity for funds provided under this heading no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall announce the selection of projects to receive awards for the funds in the previous proviso no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

NORTHEAST CORRIDOR GRANTS TO THE  
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the Northeast Corridor as authorized by section 11101(a) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114-94), \$650,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under both this heading and the "National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114-94: *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114-94, the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with the Northeast Corridor Commission established under section 24905 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading and the "National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" heading, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available to bring Amtrak-served facilities and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this

heading and the heading “National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation”, not more than \$500,000 may be made available to provide a discount of not less than 15 percent on passenger fares to veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

NATIONAL NETWORK GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the National Network as authorized by section 11101(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114-94), \$1,291,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$2,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with the State-Supported Route Committee established under section 24712 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That at least \$50,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be available for the development, installation and operation of railroad safety technology, including the implementation of a positive train control system, on State-supported routes as defined under section 24102(13) of title 49, United States Code, on which positive train control systems are not required by law or regulation: *Provided further*, That not less than \$50,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be for capital expenses related to safety improvements, maintenance, and the non-Federal match for discretionary Federal grant programs to enable continued passenger rail operations on long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations): *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be used by Amtrak to give notice under subsection (a) or (b) of section 24706 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations), or otherwise initiate discontinuance of, reduce the frequency of, suspend, or substantially alter the schedule or route of rail service on any portion of such route operated in fiscal year 2018, including implementation of service permitted by section 24305(a)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code, in lieu of rail service.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of \$35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the President of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the President of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of enactment of this Act, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by the Corporation for 2018 and the three prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments the Corporation paid to those employees receiving waivers for each month for 2018 and for the three prior calendar years.

SEC. 151. It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) long-distance passenger rail routes provide much-needed transportation access for

4,700,000 riders in 325 communities in 40 States and are particularly important in rural areas; and

(2) long-distance passenger rail routes and services should be sustained to ensure connectivity throughout the National Network (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code).

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration’s programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, \$113,165,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided or limited in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2020 President’s budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2020.

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, \$9,900,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, shall not exceed total obligations of \$9,939,380,030 in fiscal year 2019: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the cost of activities carried out under 49 U.S.C. section 5312 shall not exceed 80 percent, except that if there is substantial public interest or benefit, the Secretary may approve a greater Federal share.

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

For an additional amount for buses and bus facilities grants under section 5339 of title 49, United States Code, state of good repair grants under section 5337 of such title, high density state apportionments under section 5340(d) of such title, and the bus testing facilities under sections 5312 and 5318 of such title, \$800,000,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$400,000,000 shall be available for grants as authorized under section 5339 of such title, of which \$209,104,000 shall be available for the buses and bus facilities formula grants as authorized under section 5339(a) of such title, \$161,446,000 shall be available for the buses and bus facilities competitive grants as authorized under section 5339(b) of such title, and \$29,450,000 shall be available for the low or no emission grants as authorized under section 5339(c) of such title: *Provided further*, That \$362,000,000 shall be available for the state of good repair grants as authorized under section 5337 of such title: *Provided further*, That \$30,000,000 shall be available for the high density state apportionments as authorized under section 5340(d) of such title: *Provided further*, That \$2,000,000 shall be available for the bus testing facility as authorized under section 5318

of such title: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 5318(a) of such title, \$6,000,000 shall be available for the operation and maintenance of bus testing facilities by institutions of higher education selected pursuant to section 5312(h) of such title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, each institution of higher education selected pursuant to section 5312(h) of such title, to operate and maintain a facility to conduct the testing of low or no emission vehicle new bus models using the standards established pursuant to section 5318(e)(2) of such title: *Provided further*, That the term “low or no emission vehicle” has the meaning given the term in section 5312(e)(6) of such title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall pay 80 percent of the cost of testing a low or no emission vehicle new bus model at each selected institution of higher education: *Provided further*, That the entity having the vehicle tested shall pay 20 percent of the cost of testing: *Provided further*, That a low or no emission vehicle new bus model tested that receives a passing aggregate test score in accordance with the standards established under section 5318(e)(2) of such title, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of section 5318(e) of such title: *Provided further*, That amounts made available by this heading shall be derived from the general fund: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transit programs set forth in any Act.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5314, \$5,000,000, of which up to \$1,500,000 shall be for a cooperative agreement through which the Federal Transit Administration assists small-urban, rural and tribal public transit recipients and planning organizations with applied innovation and capacity-building: *Provided*, That the assistance provided under this heading not duplicate the activities of 49 U.S.C. 5311(b) or 49 U.S.C. 5312.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out fixed guideway capital investment grants under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and section 3005(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, \$2,552,687,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$1,315,670,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5309(d) of title 49, United States Code, \$543,500,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5309(e) of title 49, United States Code, \$568,000,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5309(h) of title 49, United States Code, and \$100,000,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 3005(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall continue to administer the capital investment grants program in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and of section 3005(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of Public Law 110-432, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and

reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall certify that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is making progress to improve its safety management system in response to the Federal Transit Administration's 2015 safety management inspection: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the rail system, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of division B of Public Law 110-432.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL  
TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION  
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2018, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 162. Of the unobligated amounts made available for fiscal years 2005 or prior fiscal years to "Transit Formula Grants", a total of \$46,560,000 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 163. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used for the implementation or furtherance of new policies detailed in the "Dear Colleague" letter distributed by the Federal Transit Administration to capital investment grant program project sponsors on June 29, 2018.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
(HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities on those portions of the Saint Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, \$36,000,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 99-662: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$16,000,000 shall be used on capital asset renewal activities.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law,

\$149,442,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which \$71,000,000 shall be for the operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and of which \$18,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy: *Provided*, That not later than January 12, 2020, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as required pursuant to section 3507 of Public Law 110-417: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be for the Maritime Environment and Technology Assistance program authorized under section 50307 of title 46, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$7,000,000, shall remain available until expended for the Short Sea Transportation Program (America's Marine Highways) to make grants for the purposes authorized under sections 55601(b)(1) and (3) of title 46, United States Code: *Provided further*, That available balances under this heading for the Short Sea Transportation Program (America's Marine Highways) from prior year recoveries shall be available to carry out activities authorized under sections 55601(b)(1) and (3) of title 46, United States Code: *Provided further*, That from funds provided under the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Transportation shall make grants no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act in such amounts as the Secretary determines: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances available from previous appropriations for programs and activities supporting State Maritime Academies shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for "Maritime Administration, State Maritime Academy Operations" and shall be made available for the same purposes.

STATE MARITIME ACADEMY OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of operations, support and training activities for State Maritime Academies, \$340,200,000, of which \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for maintenance, repair, life extension, and capacity improvement of National Defense Reserve Fleet training ships in support of State Maritime Academies, as well as other expenses related to training mariners, as determined by the Secretary, of which \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended shall be for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program, including funds for construction, planning, administration, and design of school ships, of which \$2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for the Student Incentive Program, of which \$1,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance, and of which \$6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, for direct payments for State Maritime Academies.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

To make grants to qualified shipyards as authorized under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 113-281, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI)  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$3,000,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for "Operations and Training", Maritime Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME  
ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to any existing authority, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: *Provided*, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$23,710,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule to expand the applicability of comprehensive oil spill response plans within 45 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day that such rule has not been issued following the expiration of the period set forth in the previous proviso.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$58,000,000, of which \$7,570,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That up to \$800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in the performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY  
(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$165,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, of which \$23,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; of which \$134,000,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund; and of which \$8,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 60302 and deposited in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Safety Account for the purpose of carrying out 49 U.S.C. 60141: *Provided*, That not less than \$1,058,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be for the one-call state grant program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS  
(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

Notwithstanding the fiscal year limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 5116, not more than

\$28,318,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, from amounts made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), 5128(b), and 5128(c): *Provided*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 5116(h)(4), not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available from this account shall be available to pay administrative costs: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her designee.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$92,600,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading may be used to investigate, pursuant to section 41712 of title 49, United States Code: (1) unfair or deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition by domestic and foreign air carriers and ticket agents; and (2) the compliance of domestic and foreign air carriers with respect to item (1) of this proviso.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. (a) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

(b) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department and its operating administrations shall be available for the purchase, maintenance, operation, and deployment of unmanned aircraft systems that advance the Department's, or its operating administrations', missions.

(c) Any unmanned aircraft system purchased or procured by the Department prior to the enactment of this Act shall be deemed authorized.

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3)) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1), except as provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721 for a use permitted under 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 183. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 110 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Rail-

road Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's "Federal-Aid Highways" account and to the Federal Railroad Administration's "Safety and Operations" account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the Department or its modal administrations: *Provided*, That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any "quick release" of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

(b) In addition to the notification required in subsection (a), none of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, cooperative agreement or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation provides the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a comprehensive list of all such loans, loan guarantees, lines of credit, cooperative agreement or discretionary grants that will be announced not less the 3 full business days before such announcement: *Provided*, That the requirement to provide a list in this subsection does not apply to any "quick release" of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no list shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to elements of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this or any prior Act that the Secretary determines represent improper payments by the Department of Transportation to a third-party contractor under a financial assistance award, which are recovered pursuant to law, shall be available—

(1) to reimburse the actual expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in recovering improper payments: *Provided*, That amounts made available in this Act shall be available until expended; and

(2) to pay contractors for services provided in recovering improper payments or contractor support in the implementation of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: *Provided*, That amounts in excess of that required for paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) shall be credited to and merged with the appropriation from which the improper payments were made, and shall be available for the purposes and period for which such appropriations are available: *Provided further*, That where specific project or accounting information associated with the improper payment or payments is not readily available, the Secretary may credit an appropriate account, which shall be available

for the purposes and period associated with the account so credited; or

(B) if no such appropriation remains available, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That prior to the transfer of any such recovery to an appropriations account, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the amount and reasons for such transfer: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term "improper payments" has the same meaning as that provided in section 2(d)(2) of Public Law 107–300.

SEC. 188. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided in or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of said reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and said reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days following the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 189. Funds appropriated in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable modal administration or administrations.

SEC. 190. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 191. The Department of Transportation may use funds provided by this Act, or any other Act, to assist a contract under title 49 U.S.C. or title 23 U.S.C. utilizing geographic, economic, or any other hiring preference not otherwise authorized by law, or to amend a rule, regulation, policy or other measure that forbids a recipient of a Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration grant from imposing such hiring preference on a contract or construction project with which the Department of Transportation is assisting, only if the grant recipient certifies the following:

(1) that except with respect to apprentices or trainees, a pool of readily available but unemployed individuals possessing the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the work that the contract requires resides in the jurisdiction;

(2) that the grant recipient will include appropriate provisions in its bid document ensuring that the contractor does not displace any of its existing employees in order to satisfy such hiring preference; and

(3) that any increase in the cost of labor, training, or delays resulting from the use of such hiring preference does not delay or displace any transportation project in the applicable Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or Transportation Improvement Program.

SEC. 192. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

and the Committees on Appropriations and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on efforts by the Department of Transportation to engage with local communities, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation commissions on advancing data and intelligent transportation systems technologies and other smart cities solutions.

SEC. 193. The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to identify any existing authorities and any additional authorities that may be needed to leverage funds from Department of Transportation programs for purposes of inland waterway project costs.

SEC. 194. (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to enforce or require the enforcement of section 127(a) of title 23, United States Code, with respect to a segment described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) if the segment is designated as a route of the Interstate System.

(b) The segments referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The William H. Natcher Parkway (to be designated as a spur of Interstate Route 65) from Interstate Route 65 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to United States Route 60 in Owensboro, Kentucky.

(2) The Julian M. Carroll (Purchase) Parkway (to be designated as Interstate Route 69) in the State of Kentucky from the Tennessee State line to the interchange with Interstate Route 24, near Calvert City, Kentucky.

(c) Only a vehicle that could operate legally on a segment described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) before the date of designation of the segment as a route of the Interstate System may continue to operate on that segment, subject to the condition that, except as provided in subsection (d), the gross vehicle weight of such a vehicle shall not exceed 120,000 pounds.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits a State from issuing a permit for a nondivisible load or vehicle with a gross vehicle weight that exceeds 120,000 pounds.

SEC. 195. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation may be obligated or expended to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements of section 31137 of title 49, United States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock, as defined in section 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.

SEC. 196. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Federal Transit Administration under this title to carry out sections 5307, 5311, 5337, and 5339 of title 49, United States Code, may be used in awarding a contract or subcontract to an entity on or after the date of enactment of this Act for the procurement of rolling stock for use in public transportation if the manufacturer of the rolling stock is incorporated in or has manufacturing facilities in the United States and receives support from the government of a country that—

(1) is identified as a nonmarket economy country (as defined in section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18))) as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) was identified by the United States Trade Representative in the most recent report required by section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) as a priority foreign country under subsection (a)(2) of that section; and

(3) is subject to monitoring by the Trade Representative under section 306 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2416).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under international agreements.

(c)(1) This section shall not apply to the award of a contract or subcontract made by a public transportation agency with a rail rolling stock manufacturer described in subsection (a) if the manufacturer produces rail rolling stock for an eligible public transportation agency through a contract executed prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) A rail rolling stock manufacturer described in subsection (a) may not use funds provided under a contract or subcontract described in paragraph (1) to expand the manufacturer's production of rail rolling stock within the United States to an amount of rolling stock vehicles or railcars that is greater than the amount required under contractual obligations of the manufacturer as of the date of enactment of this Act including all options for additional rolling stock.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to funds that are not appropriated or otherwise made available to the Federal Transit Administration under this title.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2019".

#### TITLE II

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

##### MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

##### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, \$14,898,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, \$556,000,000, of which \$76,600,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, (and of which \$25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, shall be for the financial transformation initiative); \$98,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the Departmental Enforcement Center; \$213,300,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration; \$40,200,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer; \$54,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management; \$20,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer; \$3,600,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; \$4,300,000 shall be available for the Office of Business Transformation; and \$46,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used

for advertising and promotional activities that directly support program activities funded in this title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide in electronic form all signed reports required by Congress: *Provided further*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the Office of Chief Financial Officer for the financial transformation initiative may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, for approval, a plan for expenditure that includes the financial and internal control capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, key milestones to be met, and the relationship between the proposed use of funds made available under this heading and the projected total cost and scope of the initiative.

##### PROGRAM OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Public and Indian Housing, \$222,000,000.

##### COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development, \$110,000,000.

##### HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Housing, \$390,000,000, of which not less than \$12,500,000 shall be for the Office of Recapitalization.

##### POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Policy Development and Research, \$26,000,000.

##### FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, \$71,500,000.

##### OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, \$7,800,000.

##### WORKING CAPITAL FUND

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the working capital fund for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this paragraph as the "Fund"), pursuant, in part, to section 7(f) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(f)), amounts transferred, including reimbursements pursuant to section 7(f), to the Fund under this heading shall be available for Federal shared services used by offices and agencies of the Department, and for such portion of any office or agency's printing, records management, space renovation, furniture, or supply services as the Secretary determines shall be derived from centralized sources made available by the Department to all offices and agencies and funded through the Fund: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in this title for salaries and expenses under the headings "Executive Offices", "Administrative Support Offices", "Program Office Salaries and Expenses", and "Government National Mortgage Association", the Secretary shall transfer to the Fund such amounts, to remain available until expended, as are necessary to fund services, specified in the matter preceding the first proviso, for which the appropriation would otherwise have been available, and may transfer not to exceed an additional \$5,000,000, in aggregate, from all such appropriations, to be merged with the

Fund and to remain available until expended for any purpose under this heading: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund shall be the only amounts available to each office or agency of the Department for the services, or portion of services, specified in the matter preceding the first proviso: *Provided further*, That with respect to the Fund, the authorities and conditions under this heading shall supplement the authorities and conditions provided under section 7(f).

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING  
TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (“the Act” herein), not otherwise provided for, \$18,780,987,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2018 (in addition to the \$4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available on October 1, 2018), and \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2019: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) \$20,520,000,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2019 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency’s authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration, which are instead governed by the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency’s allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2019: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies’ calendar year 2019 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agen-

cies’ net restricted assets accounts, including HUD-held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2018 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies’ calendar year 2019 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to \$100,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act; (2) for vouchers that were not in use during the previous 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act; (3) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD–Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) vouchers; and (4) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the previous proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary:

(2) \$85,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act, relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106–569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, \$5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of: (A) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of

the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (B) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (C) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such tenant protection assistance made available under the previous proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(t)): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement the previous provisos, including, but not limited to, requirements for defining eligible at-risk households within 60 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance from amounts made available under this paragraph for units assisted under a project-based subsidy contract funded under the “Project-Based Rental Assistance” heading under this title where the owner has received a Notice of Default and the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the Secretary determines that such units are not feasible for continued rental assistance payments or transfer of the subsidy contract associated with such units to another project or projects and owner or owners, any remaining amounts associated with such units under such contract shall be recaptured and used to reimburse amounts used under this paragraph for rental assistance under the preceding proviso;

(3) \$1,956,987,000 shall be for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to \$30,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, HUD–VASH vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than \$1,926,987,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2019 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related Appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, excluding special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be

subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) \$154,000,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*, That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading: *Provided further*, That any amounts provided under this paragraph in this Act or prior Acts, remaining available after funding renewals and administrative expenses under this paragraph, shall be available for incremental tenant-based assistance contracts under such section 811, including necessary administrative expenses;

(5) \$5,000,000 shall be for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD-VASH to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available for renewal grants to recipients that received assistance under prior Acts under the Tribal HUD-VASH program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to specify criteria for renewal grants, including data on the utilization of assistance reported by grant recipients: *Provided further*, That such assistance shall be administered in accordance with program requirements under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and modeled after the HUD-VASH program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to waive, or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such assistance: *Provided further*, That grant recipients shall report to the Secretary on utilization of such rental assistance and other program data, as prescribed by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may reallocate, as determined by the Secretary, amounts returned or recaptured from awards under prior acts;

(6) \$40,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make such funding available, notwithstanding section 203 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of

Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over;

(7) \$20,000,000 shall be made available for new incremental voucher assistance through the family unification program as authorized by section 8(x) of the Act: *Provided*, That the assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for family unification upon turnover: *Provided further*, That for any public housing agency administering voucher assistance appropriated in a prior Act under the family unification program that determines that it no longer has an identified need for such assistance upon turnover, such agency shall notify the Secretary, and the Secretary shall recapture such assistance from the agency and reallocate it to any other public housing agency or agencies based on need for voucher assistance in connection with such program; and

(8) the Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

#### HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" and the heading "Project-Based Rental Assistance", for fiscal year 2019 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

#### PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the "Act") \$2,775,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section

9(j), the term "obligate" means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That up to \$14,000,000 shall be to support ongoing public housing financial and physical assessment activities: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,000,000 shall be to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 203 of this Act, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2019: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under the previous proviso, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That in addition to the amount in the previous proviso for such safety and security measures, any amounts that remain available, after all applications received on or before September 30, 2020, for emergency capital needs have been processed, shall be allocated to public housing agencies for such safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to \$35,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinators and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$15,000,000 shall be for a Jobs-Plus initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided further*, That funding provided under the previous proviso shall be available for competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3122), and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a and 1437d), as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, That for funds provided under this heading, the limitation in section 9(g)(1) of the Act shall be 25 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the limitation in the previous proviso to allow public housing agencies to fund activities authorized under section 9(e)(1)(C) of the Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies requesting waivers under the previous proviso if the



request is approved or denied within 14 days of submitting the request: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2019 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$25,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants to public housing agencies to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in public housing by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, abatement, and interim controls (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b)): *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grant under the previous proviso shall be considered funds for projects or activities under title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) for purposes of section 26 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437x) and shall be subject to the regulations implementing such section.

#### PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

For 2019 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), \$4,756,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

#### CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v)), unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of funds made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be public housing notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, tribal entities, public housing authorities, and non-profits: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grantee shall be treated as a public housing agency under section 26 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437x), and grants under this heading shall be subject to the regulations issued by the Secretary to implement such section: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be awarded to public housing agencies: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of

the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and leverage other appropriate Federal resources: *Provided further*, That no more than \$5,000,000 of funds made available under this heading may be provided as grants to undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures, remaining from funds appropriated under the heading "Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)" in fiscal year 2011 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Availability for funds made available under this heading no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall make grant awards no later than one year from the date of enactment of this Act in such amounts that the Secretary determines: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 24(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v(o)), the Secretary may, until September 30, 2019, obligate any available unobligated balances made available under this heading in this, or any prior Act.

#### FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, \$80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections b(3), b(4), b(5), or c(1) of section 23 of such Act in order to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That owners of a privately owned multifamily property with a section 8 contract may voluntarily make a Family Self-Sufficiency program available to the assisted tenants of such property in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such procedures established pursuant to the previous proviso shall permit participating tenants to accrue escrow funds in accordance with section 23(d)(2) and shall allow owners to use funding from residual receipt accounts to hire coordinators for their own Family Self-Sufficiency program.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$655,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding NAHASDA, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$7,000,000 shall be for providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated

housing entities, to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, and for training and technical assistance related to funding provided under this heading and other headings under this Act for the needs of Native American families and Indian country: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under the previous proviso may be used, contracted, or competed as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$17,761,989: *Provided further*, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That for an additional amount for the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA, \$100,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2023: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall obligate this additional amount for competitive grants to eligible recipients authorized under NAHASDA that apply for funds: *Provided further*, That in awarding this additional amount, the Secretary shall consider need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That up to 1 percent of this additional amount may be transferred, in aggregate, to "Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Public and Indian Housing" for necessary costs of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of this additional amount: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso shall remain available until September 30, 2024.

#### INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13a), \$1,440,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$553,846,154, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That up to \$750,000 of this amount may be for administrative contract expenses including management processes and systems to carry out the loan guarantee program.

#### NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 812(b) of such Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may not invest grant amounts provided under this heading in investment securities and other obligations: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this and prior fiscal years may be used to provide rental assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian families both on and off the Hawaiian Home Lands, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH  
AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), \$375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(5) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(5) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, \$3,365,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, unless otherwise specified: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided, \$3,300,000,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (“the Act” herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): *Provided further*, That unless explicitly provided for under this heading, not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds provided under this heading may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 105(a)(17) unless such project has been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under subsection (e)(2): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$65,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), up to \$4,000,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2019, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of \$300,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accord-

ance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, \$1,362,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(10) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended, \$54,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$35,000,000 shall be made available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity building activities: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofits, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$4,000,000, shall be made available for a program to rehabilitate and modify the homes of disabled or low-income veterans, as authorized under section 1079 of Public Law 113-291: *Provided further*, That funds provided under the previous proviso shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds provided for such program in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 shall be awarded within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For the Emergency Solutions Grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; the Continuum of Care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act, \$2,612,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such Continuum of Care program shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That not less than \$270,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such Emergency Solutions Grants program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$2,205,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such Continuum of Care and Rural Housing Stability Assistance programs: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$50,000,000 shall be made available for grants for rapid re-housing projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible

activities the Secretary determines to be critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking: *Provided further*, That such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants: *Provided further*, That up to \$7,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided further*, That all funds awarded for supportive services under the Continuum of Care program and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in cash or in kind by each grantee: *Provided further*, That for all match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for this fiscal year and prior fiscal years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall collect system performance measures for each continuum of care, and that relative to fiscal year 2015, under the Continuum of Care competition with respect to funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall base an increasing share of the score on performance criteria: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be available to provide funding for new projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that the continuum of care has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care’s system performance: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall prioritize funding under the Continuum of Care program to continuums of care that have demonstrated a capacity to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects: *Provided further*, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: *Provided further*, That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds appropriated under this heading in fiscal year 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for Continuum of Care renewals in fiscal year 2019: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the Emergency Solutions Grant program within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That up to \$80,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under, in up to 25 communities, including at least five communities with substantial rural populations, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under the previous proviso, up to \$5,000,000 shall be available to provide technical assistance on youth homelessness, and collection, analysis, and reporting of data and performance measures under the comprehensive approaches to serve homeless youth, in addition to and in coordination with other technical assistance funds

provided under this title: *Provided further*, That such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants: *Provided further*, That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to establish their eligibility under 42 U.S.C. 11302(a) or (b) to receive services: *Provided further*, That unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who are living in unsafe situations may be served by youth-serving providers funded under this heading.

#### HOUSING PROGRAMS

##### PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (“the Act”), not otherwise provided for, \$11,347,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2018 (in addition to the \$400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available October 1, 2018), and \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2019: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$245,000,000 shall be available for performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may also use such amounts in the previous proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing”, or the heading “Housing Certificate Fund”, may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual re-

ceipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Payments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

##### HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended, and for supportive services associated with the housing, \$678,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, up to \$90,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: *Provided further*, That upon request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract and, upon termination of such contract, are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available, in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading, for amendments and renewals: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for amendments and renewals notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$10,000,000, shall be for a program to be established by the Secretary to make grants to experienced non-profit organizations, States, local governments, or public housing agencies for safety and functional home modification repairs to meet the needs of low-income elderly persons to enable them to remain in their primary residence: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under the previous proviso, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available to meet such needs in communities with substantial rural populations.

##### HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For amendments to capital advance contracts, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), as amend-

ed, for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act, for project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, \$154,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: *Provided further*, That, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 811 project rental assistance contract and, upon termination of such contract, are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for amendments and renewals: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be used for amendments and renewals notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

##### HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, \$45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, including up to \$4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That grants made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management or literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training: *Provided further*, That for purposes of providing such grants from amounts provided under this heading, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements, as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

##### RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s) and section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) in State-aided, noninsured rental housing projects, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under such sections of law, and any unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading after fiscal year 2005, shall also be available for extensions of up to one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES  
TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$12,000,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2019 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to section 620 of such Act shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620 of such Act, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION  
MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed \$400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2019, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the previous proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund: *Provided further*, That for administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, \$130,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That to the extent guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$200,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional \$1,400 for administrative contract expenses shall be available for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$30,000,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–20(g)), during fiscal year 2019 the Secretary may insure and enter into new commitments to insure mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act only to the extent that the net credit subsidy cost for such insurance does not exceed zero: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall not take any action against a lender solely on the basis of compare ratios that have been adversely affected by defaults on mortgages secured by properties in areas where a major disaster was declared in 2017 or 2018 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed \$30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2019, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(l), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$1,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE  
ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES  
LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$550,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That \$27,000,000 shall be available for necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional \$100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$3,000,000: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH  
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z–1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, or colleges or universities for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further*, That prior to obligation of technical assistance funding, the Secretary shall submit a plan, for approval, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how it will allocate

funding for this activity: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, \$65,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to provide such training: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$300,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND  
HEALTHY HOMES

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, \$260,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which \$45,000,000 shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, which shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards: *Provided*, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994: *Provided further*, That not less than \$95,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading for the award of grants pursuant to section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 shall be provided to areas with the highest lead-based paint abatement needs: *Provided further*, That \$45,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be for the implementation of projects to demonstrate how intensive, extended multi-year interventions can dramatically reduce the presence of lead-based paint hazards in communities containing high concentrations of both pre-1940 housing and low-income families by achieving economies of scale that substantially reduce the cost of lead-based paint remediation activities and administrative costs for grantees: *Provided further*, That such projects in each of five communities shall be for five years and serve no more than four contiguous census tracts in which there are high concentrations of housing stock built before 1940, in which low-income families with children make up a significantly higher proportion of the population as

compared to the State average, and that are located in jurisdictions in which instances of elevated blood lead levels reported to the State are significantly higher than the State average: *Provided further*, That funding awarded for such projects shall be made available for draw down contingent upon the grantee meeting cost-savings, productivity, and grant compliance benchmarks established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That each recipient of funds for such projects shall contribute an amount not less than 10 percent of the total award, and that the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that secure commitments for additional contributions from public and private sources: *Provided further*, That grantees currently receiving grants made under this heading shall be eligible to apply for such projects, provided that they are deemed to be in compliance with program requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That each applicant shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice of funding availability: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this or prior appropriations Acts, still remaining available, may be used for any purpose under this heading notwithstanding the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development, modernization, and enhancement of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both Department-wide and program-specific information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, \$280,000,000, of which \$260,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, and of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for the purposes specified under this Fund, in addition to any other information technology purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for development, modernization and enhancement may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, for approval, a plan for expenditure that—(A) identifies for each modernization project: (i) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (ii) the estimated life-cycle cost, and (iii) key milestones to be met; and (B) demonstrates that each modernization project is: (i) compliant with the Department's enterprise architecture, (ii) being managed in accordance with applicable life-cycle management policies and guidance, (iii) subject to the Department's capital planning and investment control requirements, and (iv) supported by an adequately staffed project office.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$128,082,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS) (INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 2019 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a non-frivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 204. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1).

SEC. 205. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 206. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2019 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the ex-

pressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 207. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 208. The President's formal budget request for fiscal year 2020, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 209. No funds provided under this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 210. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: The number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: The Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms “low-income” and “very low-income” shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term “multifamily housing project” means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term “project-based assistance” means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term “receiving project or projects” means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term “transferring project” means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) RESEARCH REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 211. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005;

(7) is not a youth who left foster care at age 14 or older and is at risk of becoming homeless; and

(8) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 212. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading “Native American Housing Block Grants” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2019, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property

owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 214. The commitment authority funded by fees as provided under the heading “Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account” may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

SEC. 215. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 216. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 217. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD appropriation under the accounts “Executive Offices” and “Administrative Support Offices,” as well as each account receiving appropriations under the general heading

“Program Office Salaries and Expenses”, “Government National Mortgage Association—Guarantees of Mortgage-Backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account”, and “Office of Inspector General” within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 218. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2019, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary may make the NOFA available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 219. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation shall be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel salaries and expenses appropriations. The annual budget submission for the program offices and the Office of General Counsel shall include any such projected litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request. No funds provided in this title may be used to pay any such litigation costs for attorney fees until the Department submits for review a spending plan for such costs to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 220. The Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of funds appropriated for any office under the heading “Administrative Support Offices” or for any account under the general heading “Program Office Salaries and Expenses” to any other such office or account: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any such office or account shall be increased or decreased by more than 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide notification to such Committees three business days in advance of any such transfers under this section up to 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less.

SEC. 221. (a) Any entity receiving housing assistance payments shall maintain decent, safe, and sanitary conditions, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), and comply with any standards under applicable State or local laws, rules, ordinances, or regulations relating to the physical condition of any property covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance—

(1) receives a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) score of 60 or less; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary within 3 days that all Exigent Health and Safety deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but do not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(c)(1) Within 15 days of the issuance of the REAC inspection, the Secretary must provide the owner with a Notice of Default with a specified timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The

Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner’s appeal results in a UPCS score of 60 or above, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default.

(2) At the end of the time period for correcting all deficiencies specified in the Notice of Default, if the owner fails to fully correct such deficiencies, the Secretary may—

(A) require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary;

(B) impose civil money penalties, which shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting safe and sanitary conditions at applicable properties, as designated by the Secretary, with priority given to the tenants of the property affected by the penalty;

(C) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(D) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered;

(E) transfer the existing section 8 contract to another project or projects and owner or owners;

(F) pursue exclusionary sanctions, including suspensions or debarments from Federal programs;

(G) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies;

(H) work with the owner, lender, or other related party to stabilize the property in an attempt to preserve the property through compliance, transfer of ownership, or an infusion of capital provided by a third-party that requires time to effectuate; or

(I) take any other regulatory or contractual remedies available as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for major threats to health and safety after written notice to the affected tenants. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of—

(1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”); and

(2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance.

(e) The Secretary shall report quarterly on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have UPCS physical inspection scores of less than 60 or have received an unsatisfactory management and occupancy review within the past 36 months. The report shall include—

(1) the enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times;

(2) actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties; and

(3) any administrative or legislative recommendations to further improve the living conditions at properties covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

This report shall be due to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, and on the first business day of each Federal fiscal year quarter thereafter while this section remains in effect.

SEC. 222. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 223. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA).

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Administration, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 226. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

SEC. 227. Amounts made available under this Act which are either appropriated, allocated, advanced on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the Office of Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development and functions thereof, for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, and which are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which the amounts are made available to that Office subject to reprogramming requirements in section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 228. None of the funds provided in this Act or any other act may be used for awards, including performance, special act, or spot, for any employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development who has been subject to administrative discipline in fiscal years 2018 or 2019, including suspension from work.

SEC. 229. Funds made available in this title under the heading “Homeless Assistance

Grants” may be used by the Secretary to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under section 526 of division H of Public Law 113-76, section 524 of division G of Public Law 113-235, section 525 of division H of Public Law 114-113, and such authorities as are enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2019: *Provided*, That such participation shall be limited to no more than 10 continuums of care and housing activities to improve outcomes for disconnected youth.

SEC. 230. With respect to grant amounts awarded under the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants” for fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 for the continuum of care (CoC) program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient’s matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipient’s CoC program.

SEC. 231. (a) From amounts made available under this title under the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants”, the Secretary may award 1-year transition grants to recipients of funds for activities under subtitle C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) to transition from one Continuum of Care program component to another.

(b) No more than 50 percent of each transition grant may be used for costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded.

(c) Transition grants made under this section are eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for the eligible activities of the new program component.

(d) In order to be eligible to receive a transition grant, the funding recipient must have the consent of the Continuum of Care and meet standards determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to direct a grantee to undertake specific changes to existing zoning laws as part of carrying out the final rule entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing” (80 Fed. Reg. 42272 (July 16, 2015)) or the notice entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool” (79 Fed. Reg. 57949 (September 26, 2014)).

SEC. 233. Section 218(g) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12748(g)) shall not apply with respect to the right of a jurisdiction to draw funds from its HOME Investment Trust Fund that otherwise expired or would expire in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 under that section.

SEC. 234. The Promise Zone designations and Promise Zone Designation Agreements entered into pursuant to such designations, made by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in prior fiscal years, shall remain in effect in accordance with the terms and conditions of such agreements.

SEC. 235. The Secretary shall initiate a comprehensive review of existing public housing and tenant-based rental assistance regulations and related notices and other guidance documents to identify opportunities to streamline the administration of such programs while also ensuring compliance with Federal financial and internal control requirements. The Secretary shall establish a regulatory advisory committee, composed of program and research experts from the Department, a fair representation of public housing agencies, and independent subject matter experts in housing policy, property management, and Federal grant management, which shall advise the Secretary with respect to specific policy proposals to reduce

administrative burden. The Secretary, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall submit a report on the results of such regulatory review to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 236. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to establish and apply a ranking factor in the selection and award of any funds made available and requiring competitive selection under this Act, including preference or bonus points or other incentives for participation in or coordination with EnVision Centers.

SEC. 237. (a) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall continue to engage in efforts authorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4; 127 Stat. 54) to ensure that survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are not unlawfully evicted or denied housing by certain landlords based on their experience as survivors.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts described in subsection (a).

SEC. 238. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to provide housing assistance benefits for an individual who is convicted of—

- (1) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;
- (2) murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code; or
- (3) any other Federal or State offense involving—

(A) severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively, of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); or

(B) child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

This title may be cited as the “Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2019”.

#### TITLE III RELATED AGENCIES ACCESS BOARD

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, \$3,400,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

##### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902, \$27,490,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

##### NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

##### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$23,274,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allega-

tions of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within the Corporation: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2020, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2020 in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall update the report entitled “Effects of Amtrak’s Poor On-Time Performance”, numbered CR-2008-047, and dated March 28, 2008, and make the updated report publicly available.

##### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS-15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902), \$110,400,000, of which not to exceed \$2,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses. The amounts made available to the National Transportation Safety Board in this Act include amounts necessary to make lease payments on an obligation incurred in fiscal year 2001 for a capital lease.

##### NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

##### PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101-8107), \$145,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for a multi-family rental housing program: *Provided*, That an additional \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, shall be for the promotion and development of shared equity housing models.

##### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$37,100,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,250,000 from fees established by the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2019, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at no more than \$35,850,000.



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON  
HOMELESSNESS  
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, \$3,600,000: *Provided*, That the first proviso in Public Law 115-141 under the heading “United States Interagency Council on Homelessness—Operating Expenses” is amended by striking “2020” and inserting “2021”.

## TITLE IV

## GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2019, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the tables in the explanatory statement described in section 421 of this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include—

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2019 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2019 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107-118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant

to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 409. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 410. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305, popularly known as the “Buy American Act”).

SEC. 411. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305).

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301-10.122 and 301-10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 413. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or otherwise preclude the Secretary of Transportation from granting a foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term “international conference” shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 415. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other

Federal agency to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 417. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 418. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 419. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with 16.401(e)(2) of the FAR.

SEC. 420. (a) Section 420 (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation or a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, "Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems" unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk

of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the acquisition of such system is in the vital national security interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in a manner that identifies the system intended for acquisition and a detailed description of the mitigation strategies identified in (1), provided that such report may include a classified annex as necessary.

SEC. 421. The explanatory statement regarding division D of H.R. 21, printed in the Congressional Record on January 3, 2019, and submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, shall have the same effect with respect to allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 422. (a) Employees furloughed as a result of any lapse in appropriations beginning on or about December 22, 2018 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation, for the period of such lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after such lapse in appropriations ends.

(b) For purposes of this section, "employees" means any Federal employees whose salaries and expenses are provided in this Act.

(c) All obligations incurred in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by this Act for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government functions, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 423. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee's non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees (or the grantee's employees) whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

(2) the State (or such other grantee) shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

(3) the State (or such other grantee) may use funds available to the State (or the grantee) under such Federal program to re-

imburse such State (or the grantee), together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "State" and the term "grantee," including United States territories and possessions, shall have the meaning given such terms under the applicable Federal program under subsection (a). In addition, "to continue carrying out a Federal program" means the continued performance by a State or other Federal grantee, during the period of a lapse in appropriations, of a Federal program that the State or such other grantee had been carrying out prior to the period of the lapse in appropriations.

(c) The authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 2019 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this Act) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government receiving funding in this Act which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the expenses referred to in this section with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

This Act may be cited as the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 267, legislation to reopen and responsibly fund the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

The bill before us is bipartisan and invests in critical national priorities. It passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote, and it was adopted by the full Senate on a 92-6 vote.

It provides \$71.4 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$23.3 billion above the President's budget request and \$1.1 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level.

This legislation is critical for the success of America's families, communities, and businesses. In addition to

maintaining existing infrastructure, it will allocate \$17 billion for new transportation and housing projects in both rural and urban areas.

Like last year, it includes several billion dollars of funding above authorized levels for the FAST Act to accelerate improvements in our aviation system, to expand transit and rail networks, to replace aging highways and bridge infrastructure, and to repair our affordable housing stock.

It also builds on the progress we have made since enactment of the 2018 bipartisan budget agreement to ensure that vulnerable populations—including low-income families, seniors, veterans, and the disabled—have access to reliable transportation and safe housing.

It would provide robust funding for flexible grant programs, especially HOME and Community Development Block Grants, that allow towns and cities across the country, large and small, to leverage both public and private capital to address their most pressing community needs.

Just as important, this legislation would finally reopen these departments. It would allow more than 20,000 furloughed employees at DOT and over 7,000 furloughed employees at HUD to receive back pay and to return to their mission, which is serving the American people.

The Trump shutdown, Mr. Speaker, has dragged on for more than 2 weeks, shuttering vital government services and creating chaos and uncertainty for families, businesses, and communities in each of our districts.

For example, grants to help States and communities pay for upgrades to transit, rail, and aviation facilities are being put on hold.

State departments of transportation are beginning to delay new construction projects.

The National Transportation Safety Board has ceased major accident investigations.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is no longer investigating or reviewing information about major vehicle manufacturing defects, which, in fact, puts lives at risk.

New hiring and training for air traffic controllers has ground to a halt, exacerbating an ongoing staffing shortage. FAA equipment maintenance is curtailed, and pilot certifications are suspended.

Disaster relief funding for States hit by disasters last year—funding that has already been appropriated—remains unallocated because staff at HUD remain furloughed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, we discovered just this weekend that HUD officials failed to renew more than 1,000 landlord contracts for the Project-Based Section 8 housing program before they expired at the end of the year, exposing tens of thousands of tenants to possible eviction.

Mr. Speaker, these problems can only get worse as the shutdown goes on. Hundreds more of these contracts are up for renewal in the coming months.

H.R. 267 would put an end to the madness, ensuring that vital transportation and housing infrastructure is funded for the remainder of the 2019 fiscal year.

This legislation reflects the best of bipartisan collaboration, and it excludes problematic policy riders from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation to reopen the government without further delay, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. My objections are numerous. Again, there are a lot of reasons why I am objecting to this bill in this form today.

One of the things that I think is important to note, because I have heard throughout the debate in all these bills how passing these bills will reopen the Federal Government: Mr. Speaker, I heard that last week on the floor of this House, on the same appropriations bills.

I want to mention that again. Last week, on this floor, Members came up and said, if those bills pass the House, the Federal Government would reopen.

Mr. Speaker, those bills passed the House. They didn't reopen the Federal Government, just like these bills, which are identical to the bills that were passed last week—identical—unfortunately, also will not reopen the government.

Now, I have other objections as well, Mr. Speaker. This bill is, frankly, absurd because it takes a Senate product, ignoring all—all—of the House Members' priorities. It is jamming it through this body without a single opportunity to amend or improve or change this bill in any way.

Not one House Member has had one priority put in this bill because there are no amendments allowed in this process.

Again, this ploy will not work. The Senate has no plans of taking up this legislation. And, again, this is *deja vu* all over again.

I heard folks last week talk about, if the House passed those bills last week, like we are hearing now, the government would reopen. Mr. Speaker, those statements were not true last week, and they are not true this week, unfortunately.

Now, not only did the bills last week not reopen the government. In fact, everyone on this House floor knows that this bill passing, unfortunately, will not reopen the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, all the members of the press up there know that passing this bill, unfortunately, will not reopen the government.

Heck, anybody who has been paying any attention knows that this is a sham; that, just like last week, those bills passing didn't reopen the government, and unfortunately, passing this

bill, or these appropriations bills, in this manner will not reopen the government either.

□ 1400

So by introducing these Senate bills without any changes to reflect the priorities of this body and without any opportunity for amendments, we are engaging in a sad, sad charade.

I want to take some time, opportunity to discuss the real-world consequences of this stunt. Again, our majority is asking us, all of us here in this Chamber, to reject all of the hard work and all of the priorities of every House Member, Republican or Democrat.

Mr. Speaker, in our House bill, I am proud that we decided to make a historic investment, for example, in ports: port infrastructure, the ports, seaports, including larger seaports that are critical to our country's commerce. In the House bill, we provided \$250 million for this program.

Well, the Senate didn't make this investment. They didn't think that that was as high of a priority. They missed that opportunity to build infrastructure that we need to create jobs and increase our ability to export American goods made by Americans.

We also placed a higher priority on roads and on bridges than the Senate did and with an emphasis on funds that go directly and immediately to the States and the territories through the highway formula program. The Senate didn't have that priority.

The Senate provides far less for this purpose, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you what that number is, far less: \$1.4 billion less for that direct spending in infrastructure, bridges, and roads that goes straight to the States.

The Senate, instead, put a high priority on administrative accounts and programs with, frankly, higher overhead. This bill means less funding for your State Department of Transportation and fewer jobs rebuilding the highways and the bridges around our country.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision that provided regulatory relief to, for example, sugar and beet haulers in Idaho and in Oregon. This narrow provision—and this is a bipartisan provision—simply made truck length requirements uniform between those two States—commonsense.

Again, this provision has support on both sides of the aisle, and it will help truckers and farmers in those States. But, you see, the Democratic proposal before you does not include even that commonsense provision, commonsense bipartisan provision.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision in the House bill that allows for small increases in the allowable weight for trucks that run on electric batteries, an innovation to help the environment. This is another commonsense, bipartisan provision that this bill does not have, and it was not included in the Senate mark.

This bill eliminates House and Senate report language—I want to repeat,

both House and Senate report language.

Now, what does that mean? That every single item we put in the report for Members, at the request of Members from both parties, is gone, is irrelevant in this bill.

You see, the direction that we provide in our reports every year helps hold the bureaucracy accountable and ensure that our constituents have a voice in their government. Mr. Speaker, that language is gone.

For example, we put directives in our report that require that the FAA take specific action, specific action to address airport noise, airport noise in our communities. Now, this is specifically important—I should say especially important—to our Democratic colleagues in the subcommittee and the committee on this floor, and we accommodated all of their requests on this issue with new stringent requirements on the FAA, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes those requirements null and void.

So let me now turn to housing programs. When we looked at the HUD budget, we made sure, in the House, in the House bill, the House mark—and, by the way, this is done in a bipartisan way. We made sure that we scrubbed the administrative and overhead accounts and, instead, put funds towards programs that serve our neediest, our neediest citizens. This bill, unfortunately, falls far short on our charge to do the best that we can with the revenue, the taxpayer money.

And, again, to make sure that the bureaucracy is held accountable, this bill falls short. Let me give you a few examples.

In our bill last year, we included \$50 million in new funding for a program that we call mobility vouchers. These vouchers are targeted at families with children, to enable them to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunity, and this initiative has strong bipartisan support from the authorizers and strong support from the advocates for the poor. The Senate bill does not include any funds, zero funds, for this program.

The House also included significantly more funding for new vouchers for people with disabilities. This program helps families across the country that struggle to take care of severely disabled relatives, and it also serves, by the way, so many veterans with disabilities. We provided \$390 million for this program.

For tens of thousands of new vouchers, this bill before us, frankly, falls short there as well, by \$236 million, and adds no new vouchers.

You see, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that every year, when I was chairman, I also worked to ensure that there was adequate funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, or HOPWA. This program has a record of saving lives, reducing disease transmissions, and protecting communities. I am so proud of that. We provided \$393 million in our bill to ensure that there

was no reduction, no cut to housing services for this vulnerable population.

The Senate, unfortunately, again, falls severely short, \$375 million. This will result in 1,700 people losing their housing, which will put communities at risk.

This, by the way, is a severe hit, particularly for cities like Miami, New York, Atlanta, San Francisco, and many others. This is an area the Senate was counting on the House to fix, to fix their low funding levels. But, you see, Mr. Speaker, we don't have the opportunity because of this stunt that we are witnessing here today.

Finally, we included \$150 million for Choice Neighborhoods, which is a program that provides much-needed neighborhood rehabilitation—revitalization grants, I should say. This has such strong bipartisan support in the House. The Senate did not prioritize it as much as we did, and they only provided \$100 million.

So I look forward to advancing a bill that protects this, all of these issues, and other important priorities for our House Members. I look forward to working to do that.

But before I close, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to thank somebody who has become a personal friend, Chairman PRICE. I will tell you, it has been an honor, Mr. Speaker, to work beside him for the past 4 years developing bills that truly meet the needs of our people, of our country, of our communities. These past 2 years, I think, have been particularly energizing as we worked on T-HUD bills that made substantial new investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

Chairman PRICE and I have always been able to work together to find common ground, to find solutions, and that is the spirit of cooperation and good will that will get us, I am sure, to a breakthrough to end this impasse and to reopen the government once again. So, again, I do not have anybody in this Chamber that I am more pleased to work with than the chairman of this subcommittee.

Now, today, on this bill, mark my words, Mr. Speaker, mark my words, the passage of these bills in this form will not open the Federal Government. Everyone in here knows that; just like last year, last week, we knew that they would not open the government, and we heard on this floor that they would.

This bill, unfortunately, will not reopen the government. It falls short on our priorities. It does not include any of the House priorities; so, therefore, I respectfully would urge a "no" vote.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, our ranking member and former chairman of this subcommittee, for those kind words—a sentiment that I share totally. And we, I am sure, are going to be able to continue this cooperative relationship in this new Congress, and I look forward to that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our full committee chairwoman.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Trump shutdown is now in its 20th day. More than 800,000 Federal employees are going without pay, many while they are still working, and the American people are being denied vital services all because of President Trump's demands for a wasteful border wall.

The bill before us today would reopen the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other critical agencies like the National Transportation Safety Board and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Frankly, it is outrageous that safety-critical personnel who are ensuring our trains operate and air traffic runs smoothly cannot count on a paycheck. They and the thousands of furloughed Federal employees cannot afford this kind of financial uncertainty and missed paychecks.

The Trump shutdown has also had dangerous housing implications for many hardworking families. For example, HUD's project-based Section 8 housing assistance program, which covers tens of thousands of low-income renters, is in trouble. Payments have been made for tenants this month, but due to staff furloughs, HUD contracts with landlords that expired since the shutdown began have not been renewed. This could lead to evictions of senior citizens and the disabled, displacing the most vulnerable among us.

House Democrats want to open the government, but the President and the Senate Republicans continue to obstruct instead of working with us to get the people's work done.

The solution to this crisis is simple: Pass the bills where we can agree, and extend funding for Homeland Security for a month to allow time for negotiation on border security and immigration policy.

I do hope that my colleagues across the Capitol come to their senses and stop this ridiculous Trump shutdown.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), a titanium Texan, the ranking member of the full committee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 267. Unfortunately, moving this bill across the floor will not resolve the partial government shutdown, as the President has said he will not sign this bill into law.

It is the job and responsibility of the Congress to appropriate funds. We must come together to find a solution that will reopen the government and fund border security. We need a compromise that represents the will of both Chambers and the American people.

By considering the Senate-passed version of the appropriations bills, we are eliminating House Members' involvement in the process. When it

comes to Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies, H.R. 267 places a lower priority on creating jobs and expanding opportunity.

For example, this bill provides \$1.4 billion less for highway funding to the States and territories. That is less money to address our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges.

When it comes to the Federal Aviation Administration, this bill provides \$250 million less to modernize our air traffic control system.

The bill also reduces programs for the most vulnerable among us. It provides millions less for a voucher program that enables families with children to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunity and virtually eliminates funds that House Republicans provided for impoverished citizens living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans stand ready and willing to negotiate with our friends on the other side of the aisle on legislation that includes priorities of both Houses and both Chambers. That is how the legislative body and our system of government is designed to work.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for his efforts today and over the last several months to ensure that the House's voice is heard in this debate.

□ 1415

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), a member of our subcommittee and the chairman-designate of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, let's not complicate things. There is nothing in the transportation bill or the housing budget that has anything to do with the border wall.

Instead, these agencies keep us safe when we fly and keep the planes, trains, and buses running on time. They keep Americans housed and warm on frigid January days like today in Chicago. They provide the support necessary to invest in our communities and ensure that our citizens can get to work and school, and can rebuild after natural disasters.

Shuttering the Departments of Transportation and of Housing and Urban Development over an unrelated fight about a wall on the southern border is the height of administrative malpractice and the reason I am proud to support this bill to reopen these vital agencies immediately.

This shutdown is endangering the well-being of the American public. For example, at air traffic control facilities all over the country, including Chicago Center, one of the busiest control centers in the Nation, staff ID badges, which are needed to get into the control rooms and operate equipment, expire during the month of January. Ordinarily, this wouldn't be a problem, but the person in charge of issuing new

ID badges for the 58 controllers at Chicago Center is furloughed, leaving the people responsible for ensuring that our air system runs safely and effectively in limbo and possibly preventing them from monitoring the skies as they should.

Worse yet, the Trump administration is unconscionably forcing these air traffic controllers, along with TSA agents and other crucial officials who are instrumental to the safety of the American public, to work long hours without pay, and treating them as pawns in a political chess match. It is dangerous; it is not right; and the people expect more of their government.

This President likes to tout himself as a builder and speaks frequently about infrastructure investment. Yet, he is singlehandedly standing in the way of any progress on addressing our Nation's infrastructure needs by shutting down the very agencies charged with addressing them. It seems, once again, he is all bluster and no substance.

I support this bill to reopen HUD and DOT, to get Federal employees back to work, and to support the millions of Americans who rely on the important work these agencies do. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I have always found this debate interesting, but we know what this is all about. This is all about the negotiations on border security.

What I found interesting is to listen to everybody talk about the President not being willing to negotiate, not being willing to compromise. Yet, he has offered many of the things that the Democrats say that they want in any border security bill.

A negotiation ends when both parties can say they got something that they want. Yet, the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate continue to say "no" to anything the President wants. He wants a border wall for a part of border security, and they continue to say "no." That is no kind of negotiation, and we know that is what has led us here today.

Every one of us wants government reopened, but we know the games that are being played here. I will tell you, the problem with what is on the floor today is that we are bringing up the Senate bills that completely ignore the priorities of House Republicans and House Democrats in the appropriations process.

Most of these bills have been conferenced. Why bring up just the Senate bill and not the conference report that was done that recognizes both Senate and House priorities?

Let me give you one example. The House T-HUD bill carried a bipartisan provision that raises the length limit

for specific vehicles used to transport sugar beets, and only on specific routes used to ship sugar beets between Oregon and Idaho for processing. It is a provision that is supported by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the State of Idaho. It is very limited—only sugar beets on non-interstate highways—and everybody agrees with it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here from two Senators, one from Idaho and one from Oregon, who support this provision, and I will include it in the RECORD.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 11, 2018.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
Chairwoman, Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JACK REED,  
Ranking Member, Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHELBY, RANKING MEMBER LEAHY, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN COLLINS, AND RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REED: We are writing to support a provision in H.R. 6072, reported by the House Appropriations Committee, which would increase the allowable length of uniquely configured trucks hauling sugar beets by 14'; 8", but only on less than 55 miles of specifically identified, on non-Interstate roads in rural Malheur County, Oregon.

These trucks use limited non-Interstate routes as they drive from Oregon sugar beet receiving stations to Idaho beet processing facilities. In Idaho, trucks hauling sugar beets have been safely using this configuration since 2003. Extending this to Oregon sugar beet growers across the border means 1,830 fewer truck trips on our roads.

This provision has bi-partisan support. The four undersigned, representing Oregon and Idaho, introduced this provision as an amendment when the THUD bill was considered by the Senate, although it was not voted upon.

The proposed language has been extensively reviewed by technical experts at the Federal Highways Administration as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Division as well, both of which assisted with its drafting.

We encourage you to help Oregon sugar beet farmers and their families by including the narrow provision for trucks hauling Oregon sugar beets on defined Malheur County routes in the final legislation.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden, United States Senator;  
James E. Risch, United States Senator;  
Mike Crapo, United States Senator;  
Jeffrey A. Merkley, United States Senator.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this provision is noncontroversial. It is in the House bill. Guess what? It is not in the Senate bill. That means, if you adopt the Senate bill, you have dropped out this provision and you have dropped out many other provisions that are a priority for both House Republicans and House Democrats.

Why would we turn over everything to the Senate and their priorities?

You all know how this works. When we write a bill, we emphasize House priorities and we downplay Senate priorities. They do the same thing on their side, emphasizing Senate priorities and downplaying House priorities. Then we go to conference, and we work it out and find a compromise. But we are not doing that with this bill.

I will tell you, if you bring up the conferenced bills, the bills that have been conferenced last year between the House and the Senate, you will have my support. I will vote for them, but not for a bill that just emphasizes the Senate priorities and ignores the work of the House and the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, why are we here today? We are here today because the President is down on the border and he wants to build, along part of the border, a wall, a Maginot Line, if you would have it. The French thought that they could keep the Germans out by building a fortified wall and fortifications along part of their border. The Germans went around it.

Well, if the drugs were coming over the border illegally, they would go around it. But that is not where they are coming. They are coming through the ports of entry, where we don't have enough personnel, who, by the way, aren't getting paid today, and where we don't have the technology we need to find the humans and the drugs that are being smuggled through in tractor trailers and other vehicles across the border.

If you want to invest in border security, that is a place to invest in border security.

Now, the President promised us a grand infrastructure plan. Little did we know it was going to be a partial wall along the Mexican border that he felt so strongly about that he would shut down the government.

We have the busiest, most complex aviation system in the world. It is the safest in the world. Today, 14,000 air traffic controllers are working without pay. They all got checks today—I just got a copy of one—for \$0. So they are still processing their checks, but the check is for \$0.

Then we have 3,300 aviation inspectors who are furloughed. They are not essential. We are allowing the airline industry and all the aircraft maintenance facilities and everything else to self-regulate. No one is looking over their shoulder. "Oh, don't worry about it. No problems." Right.

Then, of course, there are a few other issues that this bill would deal with. We have a \$100 billion backlog to bring existing transit, which is inadequate for today's needs, up to a state of good repair. This is delaying dealing with that problem more and more into the future.

We have 56,000 bridges on the national highway system that need substantial repair or replacement. Well, guess what? That is not going forward today either.

Last year, we wasted 3.1 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel idling in traffic. A lot of concern about climate change—well, on this side of the aisle, not on that side of the aisle. They don't believe in it. I don't know, maybe the gentleman from Florida does; they are kind of going underwater.

But we aren't giving people the options they need to get out of their cars, to be more efficient with transit.

Wastewater, the Federal Government used to partner with communities to deal with wastewater. We are not doing that anymore.

So are we going to rebuild America? Are we going to deliver on the President's promise of something other than a stupid, wasteful, ineffective wall?

How about shutting down the government because Congress won't provide the funding we need to rebuild our infrastructure? That would be, perhaps, a better cause for this President.

I urge Members to vote for this, reopen the government, fund transportation and infrastructure, and fund our air traffic controllers who are keeping us safe.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a former sheriff and my dear friend.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

Rather than focusing energy on reaching a compromise with the Senate and the President to reopen the government and get those Federal workers their paychecks, my colleagues across the aisle are spending time bringing bills to the floor that have absolutely no chance of passing and becoming law. The bill is a waste of everyone's time and a waste of countless hours of hard work by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Last Congress, my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee worked hard for many months in a bipartisan and bicameral way to pass a Transportation and Housing and Urban Development funding bill on time. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we passed that bill in the House in July of last year.

Then, in December, when we were looking at a looming shutdown, my colleagues and I in the House passed a funding package that would have kept the government open and provided an additional \$5 billion for border security and \$9 billion for initial disaster assistance to American citizens in those communities devastated by hurricanes and fires.

Instead, here we are, bringing to the floor a bill that ignores the bipartisan work of my House colleagues.

This bill today provides less funding for our ports, highways, and air traffic control. It provides less housing for people with disabilities, our veterans, and those living with HIV and AIDS.

Also, it doesn't include the oversight and accountability provisions that were added by the House. On top of all that, the President has already said he will not sign the bill into law.

As we waste the House's time, and, quite frankly, the people's time, on this bill, 800,000 Federal workers are suffering. All our Nation's transportation systems are becoming less efficient. Many functions of our air, rail, maritime, and highway transportation are being held up by furloughs and understaffing. Those essential personnel who are required to show up, they go unpaid for their work. This is unjust and immoral.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the Speaker of the House and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to put aside these partisan tactics and bring to the floor bills we have already worked on through regular order and with bipartisan agreement.

It is very simple. If the Speaker is truly serious about opening the government and getting people back to work, bring a bill to the floor that the Senate can pass and the President will sign into law.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation because it is past time to move beyond the political game of chicken and reopen these critical government agencies.

This Republican-passed Senate bill is not perfect. While it maintains current funding for the HOPWA program, it does not include the full \$393 million that I led many of my colleagues in requesting last Congress. The House fiscal year 2019 bill reflected that funding level, and I deeply appreciate the hard work of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in achieving that goal.

But I support this bill and urge all of my colleagues to vote for it for one simple reason: We must get these programs funded and operating again. People are suffering. They are working without pay or furloughed with no idea if they will ever get back to work. They are watching critical services and benefits slowly disappear, and it will only get worse as this absurd and unnecessary shutdown drags on.

The House will pass this bill today, and I call on my Republican colleagues here and in the Senate to get people back to work, to get our government open again, and to put aside this political game of blackmail by the President in which he says the government will remain shut if we don't give him his \$5 billion downpayment on a \$25 billion wall. That is a judgment for Congress, not to be subject to blackmail by the President holding the American people hostage.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and let's get our government open again.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), who, by the way, is not on the T-HUD Subcommittee but who has been an amazing asset to the full committee, but, in particular, to the T-HUD Subcommittee.

□ 1430

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there are a host of things wrong with bringing this bill to the floor. By bringing forth the Senate version of this bill, it completely ignores all of the work this committee has done over the past year, ignoring Members' priorities as well as testimonies, both of which serve as the basis of the House version of the T-HUD bill. I will name a few examples.

The Choice Neighborhoods program receives \$50 million less in the Senate bill before us today. The Choice Neighborhoods initiative works to address the problems of growing poverty in high-poverty neighborhoods. It provides flexible resources for local leaders to help transform their distressed neighborhoods into mixed-income, successful neighborhoods.

Also notably missing from the Senate bill is a very important family mobility demonstration project. Low-income families and voucher holders are often concentrated in high-poverty neighborhoods with limited education, transportation, and employment opportunities. The demonstration project absent from the Senate bill utilizes the voucher platform to target families with children and enable them to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunities.

There are also several provisions in the House report that are missing from the Senate version.

As a former deputy director for a public housing authority in Mississippi, I can tell you that these commonsense provisions would vastly improve the lives of not only our dedicated PHA employees, but also the lives of their tenants at a time when PHAs are stretched thin and do not have the operating or the capital funds necessary to meet HUD's ever growing list of demands.

As it relates to operating funds, HUD's current method for calculating formula income and utility expenses for PHAs in no way reflects the reality that many experience locally, particularly for PHAs that serve large elderly and disabled populations. The House language directs HUD to submit a report outlining alternatives for operating fund calculations so that PHAs already strapped for cash do not continue to lose money because of a one-size-fits-all approach.

Lastly, for years now, the T-HUD package has contained a provision prohibiting funds for HUD's physical needs assessment, an onerous and costly requirement that increases administrative burdens on PHAs and, as time has shown, has no operational benefit for local housing programs.

These may seem trivial to some, but these are vitally important to the people they affect.

Mr. Speaker, these are not Republican priorities; these are bipartisan priorities. We owe it to the Members of this body who worked hard on these provisions and many others to consider these bills properly and through the conference process. Bringing the Senate version of this bill to the floor ignores the will of this House and all the hard work Members from both sides of the aisle have put into the process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the legislation.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a member of our subcommittee.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have to agree with my colleagues today. This is not the bill that the House approved or that has everything that we have worked on our subcommittee to get into law to help fund those programs that are so vital to families at home and across this country, but we are here today trying to get the Senate to accept "yes" for an answer, because what is critical is that we reopen government.

President Trump is holding 800,000 Federal employees hostage, and that ripples out to millions of Americans who rely on government not just for a paycheck, but for those critical services, whether they are border security or TSA agents, the FBI, food programs, or vital housing and transportation services.

Specifically, the Federal Housing Administration has stopped processing loans and mortgage approvals, putting families trying to buy a new home or refinance an FHA-insured mortgage into financial limbo.

I heard a story of one woman who is battling cancer. She has not been able to earn an income, and refinancing her home was the key way that she could continue to have this battle and get the treatments that she needs and give her family the money to survive and meet their basic needs. With the closing of FHA, she is unable to get those documents and be able to refinance her house.

This shutdown is also threatening to destabilize more than 4 million households that depend on HUD's rental assistance programs.

The phones are ringing off the hook in my office in D.C. and back home in Massachusetts. We heard just this week from a retired Federal employee from Natick who called because she lives in affordable housing and is required to prove her income to renew her lease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, she cannot obtain the statement from OPM regarding her pension right now because they are closed. This jeopardizes her living situation.

We must reopen government and then resolve our differences about how we address border security. Passage of this bill is a critical first step.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, if I might inquire how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from North Carolina has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, having no more speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), a new Member of the House.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 267, and I urge my colleagues to come together to reopen a vital part of our government and to support this straightforward, bipartisan bill. It is a downpayment on reducing our nationwide, dangerous infrastructure problems.

It provides \$650 million for Amtrak's Northeast corridor, the most heavily used passenger rail line in the Nation; \$2.8 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration; and \$800 million in new transit infrastructure grants. This is the least we can do to begin to get our government open and Americans back to work.

Congress is 4 months behind on paying our transportation bills. We cannot move forward on our larger infrastructure investment needs, like Gateway, without this first step. Gateway is the most vital infrastructure project in our Nation.

The century-old Hudson River rail tunnel connects 200,000 commuters every day from New Jersey to New York. Amtrak uses it to connect 20 train routes across the country. This tunnel is the Achilles heel of the Northeast rail corridor and was severely damaged during Superstorm Sandy. A collapse of the tunnel could injure thousands and cost our economy an estimated \$100 million a day. But just as important to my constituents, every delay, every deferred decision on Gateway means a hardworking parent not making it home to see his or her family.

The proposal for Gateway was submitted to the DOT over a year ago. Secretary Chao needs to put the funds already approved by Congress to work. New transit trains and tunnels are exactly the type of infrastructure projects our country needs to build a strong future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the subcommittee chair for being so focused on America's transportation priorities and for allowing the voice of the people of the 11th District of New Jersey to be heard today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN), another new Member of the House, who, as she will tell us, has a special reason, given her district, to understand the impact of this shutdown.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-designate PRICE for recognizing me so that I can express my support for this legislation and discuss my grave concern about how the government shutdown is affecting my congressional district and the Nation.

Simply put, this shutdown is an issue of national security and safety. Many of the approximately 16,000 Federal Government employees and contractors who live in my district are adversely affected by the government's closure.

Specifically, the FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center is one of the 10 largest employers in Oklahoma, with more than 5,000 employees and contractors, and up to 2,000 students who attend the air traffic controller and aviation training school.

The Monroney Center is not only important to Oklahoma City, but it is a critical piece of our Nation's infrastructure, which supports more than 45,000 air traffic control centers worldwide.

Today, more than 1,000 employees have been furloughed and another 600 are working without pay. Additionally, all of the air traffic controller and aviation students have been sent home.

To put this in context, the Monroney Center is the only one of its kind in the entire United States, but today the doors are shuttered and all training has ceased. The longer the shutdown continues, the longer it will take for training to resume.

To make matters worse, the Monroney Center still hasn't recovered from the 2013 sequester, and currently the FAA is at a 30-year air traffic controller staffing low.

Yesterday, I met with an air traffic controller from Oklahoma who expressed his concerns about the immense stress and strain for controllers that the choked-off pipeline is causing. This is both an economic and domestic national security issue, and I am very concerned that the government shutdown may affect the safety and security of our Nation's air travelers.

My constituents sent me to Washington to work hard on their behalf, and I am proud to have voted for several measures to reopen the government since I was sworn in last week.

It is time to get the government back on track. It is time we use common sense, roll up our sleeves, and do the job that we were sent here to do.

There is a time and a place to debate border security, which is a complex problem that I firmly believe must be addressed.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, however, we should never risk the air safety and security of this country. The health and future of the Nation's aeronautical infrastructure should not be a pawn in a political game.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to fund the Department of Transportation, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL), another of our new Members.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking with you today because it is past time to reopen critical functions of our government.

Aerospace and aviation are the backbone of my district. I just came from speaking with aviation professionals who are employed by the FAA, as well as pilots and other impacted organizations. It has never been more clear to me that this is a crisis of both safety and national security.

Air traffic controllers are given the huge task of ensuring that millions of passengers a day fly safely. Thousands of support professionals are furloughed or not working. They include specialists who provide tactical, strategic, and administrative support, and this puts Americans across the country in danger.

I have spoken to air traffic controllers in my district who are picking up second jobs in order to pay their bills and feed their kids.

Just yesterday, Christy, a veteran and mother of two, came all the way to D.C. from California to let me know the hardships that this shutdown has put her family through.

We can't afford these men and women to be operating at anything less than 100 percent. We need to pass this bill today and get our civil servants, our veterans back to work and protect all American citizens.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to first again commend the chairman. This is an individual who I know always works in good faith, and I look forward to working with him again.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very clear that we say what we are doing here today. This bill that already passed last week will not reopen government.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what potentially could have reopened government. You see, I went to the Rules Committee on Tues-

day with an amendment, Mr. Speaker. The amendment was very simple. It has very strong bipartisan support. I think it could have been a way to reopen the government.

It basically was the Dream Act, to legalize all the Dreamers, that has been cosponsored by every Democrat in this body last Congress, along with also legalizing all the folks who are here under the TPS program, and it then had the funding for border security, issues that should not be partisan and controversial, issues that the Members across the aisle and the leadership—let me talk about the leadership across the aisle—said that they support.

□ 1445

I will never forget the Speaker of the House spent almost 8 hours on this floor saying that she wanted to fight for the Dreamers. Yet, there was a vote on Tuesday, Mr. Speaker, in the committee that she controls, the Rules Committee, on a party-line vote, the bill that would have, yes, funded border security—but would have legalized past the DREAM Act, and legalized those under TPS—was voted down on a party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, you want to know if there is good faith to reopen this government. That showed it right there. No, this bill will not reopen the Federal Government, unfortunately. Like last week, this same bill that passed didn't reopen it. Real efforts to reopen it, like that one that I mentioned, voted down four amendments, voted down a party-line vote.

It is time to get real about reopening the government. It is time to get real about passing a real T-HUD bill. Let's get back to the people's business. This is not a way to do it. This is a sham.

Again, I am grateful to the chairman because I know he is working in good faith, but this effort is not in good faith, so we must vote it down to get back to doing the real business of the people.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to end this Trump shutdown. It is self-inflicted, costly, damaging, and dangerous. It is up to Congress to end it.

Speaker after speaker on the Republican side this afternoon have looked somewhat wistfully at the bills that passed the House Appropriations Committee in the prior Congress. They longed for the chance to consider funding bills that reflect compromise between the House and the Senate, the equivalent of conference agreements, that we negotiated last year.

Do we prefer those bills, Mr. Speaker? Of course, we do. But we missed our opportunity to pass those bills in September and we missed it again in December, when Republicans controlled all the levers of government.

Now the new Democratic majority is forced to clean up this mess in the middle of the Trump shutdown. This bill



would reopen DOT and HUD, and it would provide billions in critical transportation and housing investments for our communities, families, and businesses.

This bill, and others on the floor this week, is the best way to make it as easy as possible for the Senate to say yes. That is what this is all about, Mr. Speaker: the Senate to say yes and end this shutdown. They have already said yes to these bills.

I remind my colleagues and the Senate leadership of another interesting fact, this bill, and other bills, can become law, even if the President were to withhold his signature.

If you vote against this bill, you are enabling the irresponsible behavior of the President and you are telling the American people that you are willing to hold our government hostage for a boondoggle border wall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and end the Trump shutdown.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY19 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This bill protects American families from being kicked out into the street in the dead of winter, ensures the safety of our skies, and quite literally, keeps our country moving.

This bill pays our hardworking air traffic controllers and reopens our air traffic training facilities. It allows our highway safety agencies to get back to work, including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which investigates automotive defects and formulates automotive safety standards.

This bill ensures the National Transportation Safety Board can continue its investigations into deadly road, rail, marine, and aviation accidents, as well as its issuance of safety recommendations that drive policy changes that save thousands of lives.

This bill also reopens HUD, ensuring families aren't evicted due to this unnecessary shutdown. It enables FHA loans to be processed for prospective homebuyers across the nation, and it protects renters who rely on HUD inspectors to ensure safe and sanitary housing.

Finally, it allows the FAA to resume its issuance of aviator and engineer certifications, as well as its development and testing of next generation safety technologies.

Without these vital functions, our economy will be dragged to a halt, and American families will be left in the cold. I will be voting yes on this bill, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this appropriations bill, which would fund the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

Air travel is fast becoming one of the most disturbing points of contention in this shutdown fracas.

The world's largest pilots' union recently warned in a letter to the Trump administration that air safety could be threatened by the shutdown.

About 10,000 FAA air traffic controllers have been deemed essential and asked to perform a vital public safety function without pay.

These men and women are dedicated, hard-working professionals. But this situation is unfair and untenable.

Soon, many of these vital air safety workers will begin to face financial hardship. We cannot reasonably expect them to work without pay.

On top of this, the FAA has fewer safety inspectors on the job than are needed to ensure that our air traffic control system is operating maximally.

On the ground, state transportation projects are being halted because the federal government often pays up to 90 percent of road projects.

With the Department of Transportation shuttered, road projects nationwide are stalling as federal payments to states are delayed.

Americans who rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development may face hardship, too. Due to the shutdown, HUD has stopped conducting inspections at assisted housing units.

Residents of these housing units depend on these inspections to ensure proper upkeep of their homes. They are important for ensuring the maintenance of sanitation and safety.

Even more alarming, more than 1,000 contracts for government-funded housing properties for low-income renters have expired because HUD is shut down.

Because funding has lapsed, thousands of low-income renters may face eviction.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, because the integrity of our airspace and transportation systems depend on it. And so do thousands of Americans who depend on HUD for housing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 267, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019," which funds the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development and ensure that people living in housing supported by HUD are not evicted as a result of the government shutdown proudly engineered by the President of the United States.

I am pleased to co-sponsor and support this bill because it is the right thing to do.

Because of the Trump Shutdown, some of the most important activities funded in the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies have ground to a halt.

In addition to concerns over possible evictions and severe slowdowns with Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans, the shutdown has also led to other serious impacts.

For example, the health and safety of renters have been put at risk because HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center is not conducting inspections in assisted housing units which are critical to ensure decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

Because of the shutdown, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has suspended data analysis and investigations into motor vehicle manufacturing defects which means that recalls of automotive defects will not occur.

The FAA training academy in Oklahoma City is closed, slowing the training of new air traffic controllers, despite shortages of qualified staff nationwide.

Additionally, the issuance of FAA airmen certificates that are required for the crew of

international carriers that transit through the U.S. has been suspended—the issuance of airmen certificates which are mandatory for becoming a student, private, or commercial pilot; flight engineer, navigator, or attendant; or other aviation-related professions.

These are among the many reasons I strongly support H.R. 267, which is virtually identical to legislation that has already passed the Senate on a 92–6 vote.

This legislation will reopen the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and stop some the worst impacts of the Trump Shutdown on families, businesses, and communities.

The bill provides \$71.4 billion in discretionary funding, \$23.3 billion above the President's budget request and \$1.1 billion above the FY2018 enacted level.

The total includes more than \$17 billion in funding for new infrastructure projects, in addition to \$49 billion for infrastructure from dedicated fuel and aviation taxes.

And the bill rejects the President's deep cuts to Public and Indian Housing and Community Planning and Development.

The bill also rejects President Trump's proposed elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the Choice Neighborhood Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, it is well that we take stock of the human toll caused by the Trump Shutdown, which is now entering its third week.

420,000 federal employees are working without pay.

Frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22, including 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

400,000 Federal Employees have been furloughed.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has stopped processing loans and mortgage approvals, putting families trying to buy a new home or refinance an FHA-insured mortgage into financial limbo.

IRS Customer Service Halted, Tax Return Processing Jeopardized.

Walk-in taxpayer assistance centers and all taxpayer customer service, which serves approximately 2.5 million citizens monthly, is unavailable during the shutdown.

Electronic and paper tax returns submitted by taxpayers will not be processed, leading to backlogs that will potentially delay tax refunds.

The Food and Drug Administration cannot accept any regulatory submissions and cannot support many routine regulatory and compliance activities.

This includes some medical product, animal drug, and most food-related activities.

The FDA also cannot conduct routine establishment inspections, which could prevent the finding and correction of violations, especially for food safety.

A shutdown beyond January would cause the Food and Nutrition Service to reduce benefits by about 40 percent to almost 40 million

individuals and families across the country who are dependent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Small Business Administration has completely halted its role in the federal contracting process, interfering with projects government wide.

The SBA has also stopped approving loan assistance and guarantee applications from commercial banks and small businesses, blocking access to federally-assisted loans for many small businesses.

Businesses across the country have lost access to the Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify program, which is intended to allow business owners to comply with federal law and determine the immigration status of employees they hire.

Most services provided by the Federal Trade Commission are suspended under the shutdown, including the National Do Not Call Registry (for consumers and telemarketers), consumer complaint systems, and identity theft reporting—as well as law enforcement access to FTC's consumer complaints.

In addition, the FTC has suspended most investigations and litigation under the shutdown.

The Department of Justice's civil litigation efforts against bad actors have stopped, and payments to crime victims have been put on hold.

Training for Department of Justice employees, even for those still working despite the shutdown, is canceled.

Department of Justice programs to train state and local law enforcement officers and officials have also been canceled.

All services for visitors to National Park Service sites—such as visitors' centers, interpretative programs, and restrooms—have been suspended.

Many Parks are overflowing with uncollected garbage, while curtailed law enforcement staffing is putting visitors' safety at risk.

In addition, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art have closed.

The Environmental Protection Agency has halted inspections at drinking water systems, hazardous waste management and chemical facilities.

The men and women who have been furloughed because of this manufactured crisis are not responsible for the Trump Shutdown.

The dedicated men and women of the federal civilian workforce, like those who serve in the Armed Forces, have not spent their professional lives fomenting ethnic hatred and xenophobia, or imagining a national security crisis on the southern border.

Instead, these loyal and committed public servants are motivated by their paramount interest in serving the American public without fear or favor and, for the last four days, without any guarantee that they would be compensated for their labor.

And yet, they gladly and willingly serve, some risking their lives to keep us safe.

Others stand watch monitoring weather systems and providing information necessary to protect the public from hurricanes and tornadoes and wildfires or conducting research to find cures for disease or that will yield technological innovations or help us mark and measure the far reaches of space.

Others work to secure the borders and homeland, ensure the safety of our food and water, serve our seniors and children, provide

training and support for those looking for work, and protecting our environment and keeping watch over our treasures—our national parks and monuments, including this magnificent Capitol where the people have sent us to their business.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the federal workforce do the people's business. They serve everyone equally. They do not single out some persons to serve and ignore others. They do not cherry-pick.

We should follow their example. And the best way to do that is for the House and Senate to pass this and the remaining appropriations bills by veto-proof margins and send them to President for signature and to vote to override should the President unwisely elect to veto the bill.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 267.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank Chairman PRICE for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2019 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill, which provides more than \$71 billion to partially re-open the government.

Families living in housing supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) deserve to know they will have a roof over their heads.

This bill will ensure that struggling families are not evicted from their homes because of the Trump Administration's incompetence and cruelty.

There was a report this week that thousands of families could be evicted because HUD officials forgot about Section 8 contracts that expired last month.

Let me reiterate: families could become homeless—in the middle of winter—because these Trump officials couldn't keep track of this program.

Mr. Speaker, this is just downright unacceptable. And it's hurting people across the country.

In my home district, renovations on an affordable housing project have been put on hold because of this shutdown.

There is an affordable housing crisis in this country, Mr. Speaker. A delay in projects like this will mean fewer people have a place to rest their heads at night.

These families deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump shutdown is hurting real families and it's hurting our economy.

Let's pass this bill to reopen the government, and make sure families can stay in their homes.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCEACHIN). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Yes, in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Diaz-Balart moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 267, to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 93, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$71,000,000)".

Page 102, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$71,000,000)".

Page 144, line 15, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$71,000,000)".

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit restores a House priority that had overwhelming support when we put together the FY 2019 T-HUD bill during the last Congress.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, our House bill last year placed a high priority on increasing housing opportunities for people living with disabilities. We heard from members of humanitarian groups, nonprofits, and religious organizations, frankly, just from our communities, on the importance of ensuring that the disabled have humane housing options.

Our bill, therefore, last year included \$390 million for this program, to provide over 20,000 additional housing vouchers for people with disabilities. These vouchers help some of the neediest among us live, frankly, with dignity.

The program provides a critical lifeline to families who struggle to care for the severely disabled. And it prevents, frankly, worst-case scenarios where severely disabled individuals would otherwise face homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is a reasonable, partial restoration of funding for this program. This modest motion partially restores the disability voucher cuts that my colleagues are offering today, and, instead, provides an additional \$71 million for this valuable program.

The motion would provide 7,200 vouchers, and would correct a significant blemish in the Senate-originated bill that is before us today.

Every single dollar of this funding goes directly to serve those in need. This is an account without bureaucratic overhead. Every single dollar goes to serve those who need it. It is a program with, again, a strong record of accountability and of performance.

Not one dollar of this program goes to the Federal bureaucracy. These funds directly serve the disabled and their families, often, Mr. Speaker, through faith-based and community-

based organizations. This program also serves a large number of veterans, some of whom, Mr. Speaker, became disabled in service to our country.

This motion is offset by a reduction to HUD's Information Technology Fund, leaving the account at a very reasonable level of \$209 million. Again, this is a manageable level for HUD IT, and it is a modest adjustment to bring dignity, relief, and help to individuals and families with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, responsibility for funding the Federal Government is as basic as it gets. It is one of the most important duties of Congress. The previous majority failed to do the basic task of keeping the lights on. Here on day 5 of the 116th Congress, we Democrats and leadership are determined to reopen Federal agencies shuttered by the Trump shutdown.

This legislation, which has already gotten bipartisan support—virtually unanimous support in the Senate—will ensure that the Federal Government is open and working for the American people.

The agencies funded in this bill have been shuttered for 20 days. More than 20,000 air traffic controllers have been on the job, ensuring the safety of the Nation's skies, without pay. They have been doing their jobs without the usual complement of safety professionals who support the operation of the airspace.

Yet, when payday comes for these controllers—and thousands of other Federal workers—they will see nothing. Instead of their pay, they will get a blank check. They will not get compensated for the work they have done.

HUD is scrambling to renew contracts and ensure that thousands of tenants aren't evicted. The uncertainty over Federal grants has caused State departments of transportation to delay issuing contracts just before the construction season, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, we must end this madness. This bill, in its current form, represents the quickest and easiest way to do this, making it as easy as possible for the Senate to say "yes," because they have already said "yes" to these bills.

This is why we are taking this approach. I ask my colleagues to support us in that so that here, on day 20 of the Trump shutdown, we can bring this to a close. We are on the verge of having the longest government shutdown in American history. We need to pass this bill without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this motion to recommit, vote "no" on the motion to recommit, and "yes" on the bill.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### PROTECTING DIPLOMATS FROM SURVEILLANCE THROUGH CONSUMER DEVICES ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 115) to require the Department of State to establish a policy regarding the use of location-tracking consumer devices by employees at diplomatic and consular facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 115

*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 "Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act".

##### SEC. 2. SECURING UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR FACILITIES AGAINST CYBERSURVEILLANCE.

(a) POLICY ON LOCATION-TRACKING CONSUMER DEVICES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking consumer devices, including GPS-enabled devices, at United States diplomatic and consular facilities by United States Government employees, contractors, locally employed staff, and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities.

(b) SECURITY BRIEFING.—Existing and new employees at United States diplomatic and consular facilities, including contractors, locally employed staff, and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities, shall, as a part of the security briefings provided to such employees, be informed of the policy described in subsection (a) and given instructions on the use of location-tracking consumer devices both on and off the premises of such facilities.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the heads of any other

agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at United States diplomatic and consular facilities in the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a) and the dissemination of such policy pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the details of such policy.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 115, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, before I talk about the bill, I want to very briefly acknowledge the fact that this is the first debate we have had with bills in the Foreign Affairs Committee since the new Congress. I want to welcome Mr. MCCAUL to the very important position—which I had for the past 6 years—of ranking member. And I know that, as chairman, the Foreign Affairs Committee for the past 6 years has had a record of being the most bipartisan committee in the Congress. I hope and I know that that will continue with this Congress, and that the respect that all Members have shown each other will continue the tradition of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to working with Mr. MCCAUL in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 115, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act. I thank Mr. CASTRO for introducing this legislation.

Before I get into the merits of this particular bill, which is designed to protect diplomats from cyber snooping, I would be remiss if I failed to express my deep concern that thousands of Department of State employees and diplomats are furloughed without pay.

□ 1500

I am hearing stories of State Department officials struggling to make ends meet, taking up side jobs and having garage sales to stay afloat. By keeping America's diplomats away from their jobs, we are harming our national security. We need to end this shutdown, and we need to end it now.

Now, I will turn to the excellent bill before us today. This measure aims to ensure the Department of State has policies in place to help prevent our adversaries from tracking the locations

of our foreign service officers through their electronic devices.

From Fitbits and smartwatches to phones and cars, most of us have at least one tracking device with us at all times. Many of us would literally be lost without these devices, but they pose security risks as well.

This commonsense measure would make sure the Secretary of State has a policy in place on using location tracking consumer devices at our diplomatic and consular facilities around the world.

This is a good bill that passed the House unanimously in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage again today.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me first congratulate Mr. ENGEL on his ascension to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I can't think of a better chairman to work with than Mr. ENGEL, who is always bipartisan, always says that partisanship stops at the water's edge. And I know, being a national security committee, that we will conduct ourselves with dignity and respect for each other. We may disagree from time to time, but we will always respect each other. I look forward to working with him in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I sponsored with Mr. CASTRO of Texas, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.

Last year, a report revealed the risk of using wearable technologies such as Fitbits and Apple watches which use GPS tracking. As the report stated, researchers were able to track the movements of deployed troops in overseas locations. This obviously poses an enormous security risk for our soldiers overseas. Enemies could track patrol routes or discover the location of secret foreign installments.

This exposure puts our diplomats at risk as well. We have men and women engaging in diplomatic efforts all over the world, often in sensitive and high-risk areas. We must not make it easier for our enemies to track their movements.

As such, our bill requires the Department of State to establish a policy on the use of location tracking consumer devices by diplomats at U.S. facilities around the world. We introduced this bill last year, and it passed in a large bipartisan fashion.

I want to thank Mr. CASTRO for his leadership, as well as Chairman ENGEL for his work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act is a commonsense way to improve the safety of U.S. personnel overseas.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I think protecting our diplomats and ensuring sensitive and classified areas is really critical to our national security. This bill does that.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Chairman ENGEL's leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I look forward to continue working with Chairman ENGEL to advance U.S. foreign policy and national security this Congress.

I'd also like to thank my colleague from Texas, Ranking Member MICHAEL McCAUL, for authoring this measure with me.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Foreign Service Offices voluntarily serve in some of the most dangerous pockets of the world to advance U.S. national interests and security abroad.

Changing technologies force us to adapt our security practices to ensure our diplomats' safety.

This includes threats posed by location-tracking consumer devices that reveal physical locations and movements.

I was glad to reintroduce the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act last week with Ranking Member McCAUL.

This legislation requires the State Department to account for location-tracking consumer devices in broader U.S. embassy and consulate security policies.

As lawmakers, we have a moral obligation to ensure our men and women in the line of duty have the protections they deserve.

This legislation does just that.

Protecting our nation's frontline civilians is not a partisan issue, it's an American issue.

We must ensure our security policies and practices nimbly adapt to evolving technologies and tactics used by our enemies.

That's why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 115 the "Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act," which directs the State Department to establish a policy on location-tracking consumer devices at U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities around the world and requires employees to be briefed on the policies and procedures during routine security briefings.

H.R. 115 also requires the Secretary of State to coordinate with heads of any other agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at U.S. facilities in formulating this policy.

I support this legislation because, among other things, with the enactment of this act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking devices, including GPS-enabled devices, at United States facilities, both at home and abroad.

This act clarifies that U.S. employees will be kept updated and notified about the use of location-tracking consumer devices both on and off the premises of U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities.

The State Department is the critical go-between when dealing with international affairs and foreign policy issues, and this act will expand their duties by protecting the privacy rights of Diplomats and resident employees in this new age of technology.

Location-tracking information can be stored within a device or transmitted to an outside server, both storing the data, and giving real time location of said device.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age, most smart phone users have location-tracking apps open on their device at all times; an estimated 90 percent of smart phone owners in 2015 use location-based services, and have them on all times.

For example, weather apps, which an estimated 65 percent of adults share their location with and check daily, require the users' location to provide accurate weather information.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 115 and upholding the importance of the privacy of our employees in consular and diplomatic facilities, and ensuring that all persons involved are aware and educated about the upholding policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 115.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 133

*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 "United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Mexico have benefitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

(2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.

(3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, "Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges . . . in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment."

(4) According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 84,000 non-United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied

in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.

(5) In March 2011, the United States launched the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which seeks to increase educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and universities in the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere region.

(7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to more than 250 higher education institutions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments, 75 percent of which was from corporations, foundations, and regional governments.

### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

### SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, especially with communities and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass medical licensing board

exams, and nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in the United States.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy required under subsection (a).

### SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative” means the initiative established in March 2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico border region” means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 133, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. I thank Representative CUELLAR for introducing this measure, and I will discuss its merits in a moment.

But I can't stand in good conscience on the House floor to talk about our economic partnership with Mexico and not speak for a moment on what is happening right now on our southern border.

The government is currently shut down, with thousands of workers furloughed and prevented from doing their jobs. This is something that should be ameliorated quickly. Government should open.

The measure before us today deals with the incredibly important relationship with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Mexico is our close friend and ally and a country with which we have extraordinarily close cultural and person-to-person ties.

This bill builds on the Obama administration's 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative by requiring the Secretary of State to expand the exchange programs and allow our students and business leaders to share and learn from each other.

It is also crucial that we send a strong message to the Mexican people that the United States Congress will not walk away from them despite the damage done to the relationship.

As I have said many times in the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on the House floor, the United States should be in the business of building

bridges, not walls, to our friends in Mexico.

By passing this measure today, the House of Representatives is recommitting itself to our bilateral relationship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the U.S.-Mexico Economic Partnership Act authored by my good friend and fellow Texan, Mr. CUELLAR.

As a native Texan, I know how critical the U.S.-Mexico relationship is to the prosperity and security of our two nations. And as the former chairman of the U.S.-Mexico IPG, I had the honor of leading congressional delegations to sit down with our Mexican counterparts to discuss bilateral issues, such as trade and security, and just recently went down for the President's inauguration. These legislative exchanges have been imperative for furthering the relationship between our two nations.

However, we must look beyond traditional and shared connections and foster cultural and academic partnerships and grow the U.S.-Mexico relationship among the younger generations. This bill achieves that goal by creating academic exchanges in the private sector that are focused on health and energy. This academic pipeline will strengthen our energy infrastructure and develop new generations of medical professionals who could work in both of our countries.

This bill complements the economic growth initiatives and the recently negotiated USMCA trade agreement, and it promotes the U.S.-Mexico relationship at the committee level.

Again, as I mentioned just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the inauguration of President Lopez Obrador in Mexico City with many of my colleagues. Our two countries have had a very proud history together, and I think these are times, trying times, as the chairman mentioned, but I think that is why this bill is so important. I think we can have a brighter future together between our two nations. I urge my colleagues to support it to strengthen this relationship.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Mr. CUELLAR for leading this message. Growing up in Texas, I dealt with our Mexican counterpart, their largest trading partner, have done a lot with Mexico. When I was in the Attorney General's Office, I met with Mexico periodically, and also as a Member of Congress.

This is an important relationship between our countries. While there have been moments of disagreement, I think it is important that our countries remain allies and we are friends with our neighbors to the south.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again emphasizing the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

Twenty years ago, it would have been hard to imagine coming to the House floor in support of a bipartisan bill on educational exchanges with Mexico. Now, a bill like this will glide through the House with little, if any, opposition, just as it did last year. But we cannot take cooperation for granted. We have to keep on working with Mexico to improve our relationship.

I thank my colleagues for supporting me and joining me in supporting this legislation to double down on the successes in the U.S.-Mexico partnership, and I urge its immediate passage.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 133, the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” that promotes economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” strategy predominantly focuses on academic, business and medical exchanges.

The United States and Mexico have benefited from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

In March 2011, the United States launched the “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative”, which increased educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region.

The 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” would expand the educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, the Houston Independent School District is educating nearly 3,500 immigrant students in their first year in American school systems.

The state’s largest district of Texas has more than 11,000 immigrant students who have been in America for three years or less.

René Sánchez, the principal of César E. Chávez High School located in the 18th district and the son of Mexican immigrants made statements to incoming high schoolers.

“Many of you were not in Houston last year, were not in the United States, yet we’re holding you to the same standards as students . . . living in the United States all their lives,” said René Sánchez.

High school students like Sophia Martinez, an 18-year-old senior from Mexico have been in Houston for nearly two years and speak near-fluently but stumble over the essay section.

For these students and reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 133.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 133.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 192

*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 “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act”.

### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries’ capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, deconflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

### SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordinate all United States programs, projects, and activities in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries in such regions, including the ability to monitor, restrain, and interdict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of

such partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities through public diplomacy efforts, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(G) To support independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, to counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(D) The estimated cost and anticipated implementation timeline for assistance.

(E) As applicable, a description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(F) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States security assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) states the objectives of the United States counterterrorism effort in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism;

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs and identifies the key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.

(2) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include, in the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, a description of the requirements, activities, and planned allocation of amounts requested by the TSCTP.

(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—

(1) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall monitor and evaluate the programs coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1) in accordance with the plan outlined pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(C).

(2) REPORT.—For the 5-year period beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on monitoring and evaluation efforts pursuant to paragraph (1) that describes—

(A) the progress made in meeting the objectives listed in the strategy required by subsection (b)(1), including any lessons learned in carrying out TSCTP programs and activities and any recommendations for improving such programs and activities;

(B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-conflict, and streamline TSCTP programs to maximize resource effectiveness;

(C) the extent to which each partner country has demonstrated the ability to absorb the equipment or training provided in the year previous under TSCTP programs, and where applicable, the ability to maintain and appropriately utilize such equipment provided;

(D) the extent to which each partner country is investing its own resources to advance the goals described in subsection (a)(1) or demonstrated a commitment and willingness to cooperate with the United States to advance such goals; and

(E) the actions taken by the government of each partner country receiving assistance through programs coordinated by the TSCTP to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of good governance.

(d) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (b)(1) and the report required by subsection (c)(2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous

material on H.R. 192, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. I would like to begin by again thanking Mr. MCCAUL for once again putting forward this legislation. I look forward to working with him, as I mentioned before, as he begins his role as the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The bill before us today authorizes the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This interagency program was established in 2005 to help America’s partners in the Sahel and Maghreb regions counter terrorism and violent extremism.

In places where instability leads to terrorism and conflict, it is important that we collaborate with our allies and that our policy is driven by a united interagency effort. That is why this bill is so important.

By coordinating our diplomatic, military, and development efforts in our own government and with partners abroad, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership strengthens our response to the international security threats facing these regions of Africa.

Passing this legislation, which authorizes an existing program, will also enhance the ability of Congress to conduct thorough oversight.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which already passed the House last year, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of my bill, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act. This bill passed the House last year. I am pleased that the chairman and I were able to make it an early priority in this Congress.

This legislation strengthens our counterterrorism operations in Africa, an area where the terror threat is rapidly rising.

□ 1515

Our military successes in Iraq and Syria have splintered ISIS, squeezed terrorists out of the Middle East, and sent them fleeing to Africa. The numbers are alarming.

On the eve of 9/11, al-Qaida had only a few hundred followers. Today, it is estimated that 10,000 ISIS and al-Qaida jihadists have established bases across the continent.

Along with other existing terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, terrorism is taking hold in Africa and prohibiting its prosperity. We know that these groups have plotted attacks that threaten U.S. interests, and some have succeeded.

The Trump administration recently released their Africa strategy. It appro-

priately prioritizes U.S. efforts to counter radical Islamic terrorism on the continent. I applaud their continued focus on this issue.

My bill, which I introduced with my friend Mr. KEATING, authorizes for the first time a program called the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This program works with countries such as Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria to build their capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations, prevent the spread of violent extremism, and strengthen the rule of law.

Furthermore, it requires the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department to work together to develop a counterterrorism strategy in Africa. By taking a multifaceted approach and better coordinating our efforts, we can prevent terrorism from gaining a larger foothold in these countries.

Again, I thank Mr. ENGEL and I thank Mr. KEATING for their shared support of this cause, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman ENGEL and Congressman KEATING. The bill authorizes a really important interagency effort to combat terrorism and prevent the spread of radical Islamist extremism in Africa. As ISIS and other terrorist ideologies are degraded in the Middle East, they are, unfortunately, finding a safe haven in Africa.

We must partner with other nations to work to combat these threats before they impact the homeland. This bill will increase congressional oversight from our committee and better coordinate U.S. assistance.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank Mr. MCCAUL for his work on this measure and state again that I look forward to working side by side with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. This bill authorizes an important program that strengthens our efforts to assist partners in the Sahel and Maghreb to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 192, the “Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership Act,” which will help to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

This bill launched in 2005, is a partnership to cooperate with countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and longterm capabilities to address and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

Extremist movements, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and

caused mass human suffering in the affected communities.

As Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are being driven out of the Middle East, Africa is becoming the new battleground for their terror attacks.

According to the Environmental System Research Institute, in the last four years, terrorist attacks have killed 31,600 people in 4,455 attacks in Africa.

Boko Haram alone caused more than 8,000 fatalities across Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Boko Haram have taken control of the former commercial town of Baga near the border with Chad, which caused the displacement of hundreds of people.

Armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance.

Youth populations are more likely to join an expanding terrorist network in West and Central Africa, which make the region more likely to be hit by a severe violent attack.

Al-Qaeda and ISIS recruited in Tunisia 6,500 youth volunteers.

On Oct. 4, 2017, militants affiliated with ISIS ambushed a team of U.S. troops in Niger, killing four soldiers and wounding two.

On October 6, 2017, a terrorist attack killed more than 300 people, injured nearly 400 and leveled an entire block in Mogadishu, Somalia.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following recommendations from the report:

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

This is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries' capacity to combat these threats in Africa.

H.R. 192 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that the U. S. Congress can assist its partner countries to:

Address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

H.R. 192 is a step in the right direction because it will help to establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 192.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 221

*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 "Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act".

### SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

### SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary."; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "APPOINTMENT" and inserting "NOMINATION";

(ii) by striking the first sentence;

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking "If the Secretary determines that such is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint" and inserting "If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate"; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking "The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the appointment" and inserting "Such officer or employee may not retain the position (or the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the nomination"; and

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

"(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts across, the United States Government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

"(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador.

"(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of—

"(A) combating anti-Semitism;

"(B) religious freedom; or

"(C) law enforcement."

(b) NOMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 120 after any such position becomes vacant, the President shall nominate the Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism under section

59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 221, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 221. I am a proud original cosponsor of this bill, and I am pleased we are considering it today. We passed it with bipartisan, unanimous support in the last Congress, and I am looking forward to seeing us show that broad support again. In this Congress, we must continue to stand against anti-Semitism.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work on this effort: Congressman CHRIS SMITH, the author of this legislation, and my fellow co-chairs of the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism. I am proud to stand with a group of legislators committed to fighting intolerance and hatred.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a sickening increase in anti-Semitism over the past few years. Just a few months ago, a gunman stormed a synagogue in Pittsburgh, attacking peaceful congregants and killing 11 people. We have seen people who embrace hatred and bigotry given a new, loud megaphone to spread their poison. Across the United States, we have seen an uptick in anti-Semitic language and an increase in threats of violence against Jewish communities. In my home State of New York, NYPD officials have reported an alarming surge of anti-Semitic hate crimes.

Every day, more and more alarming anti-Semitic incidents are happening across the world: Holocaust survivors recently assaulted, rallies and parades glorifying Nazi leaders, and swastikas graffitied to incite fear and terror. The list goes on and on.

This is appalling, and it demands immediate action.

As a country, we need to come together to say enough is enough. We need to confront evil, call it by its name, and say there is no place for it anywhere in the United States or around the world. We need to do it as citizens. We need to do so in our laws and in our policies. We need to make sure that we fill the positions that are supposed to be dealing with this issue. The Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism position at the State Department is still vacant, and that is simply unacceptable.



We must have a senior official push back against intolerance and hatred of anti-Semitism. American leadership is desperately needed in the fight against this ancient form of hatred. I am sick and tired of foot-dragging on filling this critical position.

That is why I am glad we are moving this bill forward. This legislation would elevate the Special Envoy position and require the President to put forward a nominee no more than 120 days after a vacancy. This is essential for making sure that a prolonged vacancy like we have right now never happens again. We must have a senior State Department official dedicated to coordinating U.S. Government efforts to combat anti-Semitism abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure. I ask my colleagues to join me in doing so, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to ensure that American efforts to fight the scourge of anti-Semitism are as strong as possible.

In December, the European Union released the results of a survey of over 16,500 European Jews. The results of this survey are, frankly, disturbing.

In its report, the EU wrote that anti-Semitism pervades everyday life. It also stated that anti-Semitism undermines Jews' feelings of safety and security and that anti-Semitic harassment is so common that it becomes normalized.

Europe is not alone in seeing a resurgence of anti-Semitism. Textbooks across the Middle East teach children to hate Jews. Malaysia's Prime Minister has repeated offensive, anti-Semitic statements. Here in the United States, we were devastated by the attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue in October. No region or country is immune from this hatred.

In 2004, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act was passed into law, establishing a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. This position was created to combat this threat worldwide through bilateral relationships and international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. Fifteen years later, we need to modernize the way our government is set up to fight this hatred.

This bipartisan bill, which has been previously introduced in the House and passed in the House, requires the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. The bill also elevates the Special Envoy position to the rank of Ambassador and ensures direct access to the Secretary of State. It is finally time for the stature of this position to reflect the level of work that must be done.

Unfortunately, a Special Envoy has yet to be nominated under this administration, and I strongly urge the President to appoint a qualified candidate as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for introducing this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who is the Democratic lead on this bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of, the bipartisan Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, H.R. 221. I thank Representative CHRIS SMITH for introducing this bill and Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCAUL for their leadership in bringing it to the floor today.

I am sad to say that we live in a time when anti-Semitism is again on the rise across our globe. Last fall, the entire world was shocked by the shooting in Pittsburgh of 11 Jews at prayer in the Tree of Life synagogue, the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in our country's history.

Here in the United States, according to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents increased 57 percent in the U.S. alone in 2017 compared to the previous year.

In the European Union, a survey found that European Jewish communities fear attacks and rated anti-Semitism on the Internet and social media as the biggest social and political problem. A Kantor study on contemporary Jewry recently stated that Europe's largest Jewish communities are experiencing normalization and mainstreaming of anti-Semitism not seen since the Second World War.

The United States has an important leadership role to play in tamping out hate both here and around the world. That is why I am concerned that the State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism remains unfilled, as it has since the start of the Trump administration. Our bill would elevate this role to a position of proper importance at the ambassadorial rank and sets requirements to ensure the role is filled within 90 days.

We need to do all we can to support our allies and combat anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it manifests itself. Hate is truly a cancer that eats away at our foundations. What may first begin as words can fester and manifest into discrimination, violence, or worse.

I am proud this House passed our bill overwhelmingly in the last Congress but disappointed that the Senate did not take action. I am pleased that this is a priority at the start of this new Congress, and I hope the Senate will follow our lead and take up this important legislation. I hope the President will take note and pass this legislation and fill this long-overdue vacancy.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McCAUL for yield-

ing and for his very strong support of this legislation. And ELIOT ENGEL, the new chairman, I thank him as well. I thank Brad Schneider for being the original Democratic cosponsor.

This is a bipartisan bill. In the last Congress, we had 86 cosponsors. Even in this Congress, we already have gotten up to 80 cosponsors. It shows that we can reach across the aisle and fight this pernicious evil called anti-Semitism.

In 2004, Mr. Speaker, I authored the provisions of law that created and required this position and the office it leads at the State Department. H.R. 221 upgrades and strengthens the position to better anticipate, prevent, mitigate, and respond to threats against Jewish communities worldwide.

H.R. 221 elevates the Special Envoy to the rank of Ambassador, reporting directly to the Secretary of State. This would enable sufficient seniority and access inside the U.S. Government and when engaging foreign governments.

The bill requires the President to nominate a candidate no later than 90 days—and all the Presidents from Bush to Obama, and now, sadly, under President Trump, have been very late in coming forward with that nominee. There was a nominee for the Special Envoy, but because of illness or a health crisis, that person was not named. But we—all of us—have asked the President to name that person and to do so immediately.

This bill requires, as I said, to do it no later than 90 days after the bill becomes law and no later than 120 days thereafter whenever that position is empty.

H.R. 221 prohibits double-hatting of the Special Envoy with duties irrelevant to combating anti-Semitism. The legislation also mandates the Special Envoy to be the primary adviser to the U.S. Government on monitoring and combating anti-Semitism.

Far too often, Mr. Speaker, over the decades, the U.S. Government has put combating anti-Semitism, human trafficking, and religious freedom violations in the back seat of our foreign policy. That is why Congress has created offices and positions to ensure the United States was focused on fighting these evils.

Over the past decades, there has been an unprecedented rise in anti-Semitic acts and rhetoric all over the world: Jews harassed, assaulted, and even murdered; synagogues attacked; graves and cemeteries desecrated; anti-Semitic slurs; plus targeting the State of Israel itself with the three Ds—demonization, double-standard, and delegitimization, as my good friend, the great Soviet Jewish refusenik and religious prisoner Natan Sharansky named them. The so-called BDS movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel is one of the most pernicious examples of what Sharansky called the new anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitic hatred is hardwired into the ideology of violent Islamist

and White supremacist groups, but the evil goes beyond those perpetrators.

□ 1530

Politicians, entertainers, and public intellectuals across the philosophical spectrum have exhibited anti-Semitism. Strong American leadership, therefore, is essential to battle this bigotry.

Combating anti-Semitism, as I said earlier, has always been a bipartisan effort. This bill did pass the last Congress 393-2. The text before us in the legislation is identical. I hope we have very strong support for it and the Senate, hopefully, will take it up, consider it, pass it, and get it to the President.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 221, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, and thank our bipartisan cosponsors for moving it forward.

This bill would elevate the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to the rank of ambassador, with nomination by the President and confirmation by the Senate. Sadly, this bill is very much needed.

A report last year published by the Kantor Center at Tel Aviv University found an increase in anti-Semitic harassment and abuse worldwide, including in schools and online. The report recounts abuse against Jews in dozens of countries around the world.

Yet, despite its clear findings, the Trump administration has yet to even fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. This is simply shameful and inexplicable. It is particularly shameful given this President's unabashed embrace of the alt-right, a movement which was linked to the murderous attack on the Tree of Life synagogue, the deadliest attack on a Jewish community in American history.

Talk is cheap. If President Trump genuinely cared about the Jewish community, he would have made this appointment a priority—and he has not.

I thank my colleagues who are moving this bill forward on both sides of the aisle. I urge us to pass this bill, again, and send it to the Senate and eventually to the President's desk so that America can lead by example by filling this vital role that demonstrates our commitment that Jews and people of all faiths are free to practice their religion without fear or harm.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his friendship and all his good work over the years, as well. Again, I also thank Representative SMITH, my good friend, for sponsoring this piece of legislation.

As co-chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 221, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.

The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism was established by the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act. The Special Envoy develops and implements policies and projects to support efforts to combat anti-Semitism globally.

This bill elevates the position to the rank of ambassador, directly reporting to the Secretary of State, sending a clear message to the world regarding our commitment to combating anti-Semitism.

In addition to requiring the position be filled, the bill prevents the appointee from holding any other office, making this a priority and ensuring their sole focus is monitoring and combating the scourge of anti-Semitism.

Throughout history, humanity has experienced tremendous evil, Mr. Speaker. Our brightest moments as a Nation were those when we recognized evil and worked together to swiftly and unapologetically defeat it. Our darkest moments were those when we stood by and did nothing while making excuses for our passivity.

Combating anti-Semitism and promoting human rights are pivotal components of American diplomacy and foreign policy. Additionally, dedicated U.S. leadership in this area is crucial, especially at a time when anti-Semitism around the world is dangerously on the rise.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), one of my fellow co-chairs of a bipartisan task force to combat anti-Semitism.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for helping to shepherd this legislation through the committee last year and for bringing it to the floor so quickly this year. I thank the ranking member, I thank my fellow co-chairs of the Anti-Semitism Task Force, and I especially want to thank my colleague, CHRIS SMITH, who has been a stalwart ally in combating anti-Semitism and has worked to create and strengthen this position for many years.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, on January 9, 2015, a gunman entered a kosher supermarket in Paris, killing four. Last year, on the anniversary of the Hypercacher shooting, another kosher supermarket in southern Paris was targeted with swastikas and arson.

Tragically, there have been countless attacks against the Jewish communities of Europe over the last few years, some of which make headlines, but many of which don't: The anti-Semitic murder of a Holocaust survivor; the man attacked in Germany for wearing a kippah, a Jewish skullcap; the shootings at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels that killed four;

the shooting at a Bat Mitzvah in Copenhagen; an 11-year-old in England attacked on the street as children shouted, "Burn all the Jews;" and White supremacists and anti-Semites marching in European capitals.

Anti-Semitism is certainly not a new phenomenon, but we should expect that the United States Government would take a leading role in tracking, combating, and preventing it.

After October 27, when the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in America took place and 11 Jews were gunned down for practicing their religion, America has an obligation to lead. We need a global-facing officer at the State Department who will engage Jewish communities and European leaders to make their countries safer for Jews.

We have repeatedly asked this administration to fill the Special Envoy position. They have left it vacant for almost 2 full years under two different Secretaries of State. Members of Congress have sent letters to the White House and the State Department. We have asked administration officials in person about when or whether they plan to appoint a Special Envoy. There is bipartisan frustration over the delay.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is the canary in the coal mine. When it is present in your country, there is hatred in your country. I am pleased the House will vote on this bipartisan bill early in this Congress to send a clear message to the administration that there is no time to waste. Democrats and Republicans together expect America and the President to stand firmly against anti-Semitism by filling this important position.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my good friend. She and I have districts that border each other.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to thank Chairman ENGEL for initiating and working so hard on this absolutely essential issue.

It is really shocking to me, with anti-Semitism spreading throughout Europe and other places in the world, that we don't have a Special Envoy. I have brought this to the attention of the former Secretary of State. The urgency of this issue demands a person who is focused, with a staff, and working with Members of Congress who share their passion. We need this Special Envoy now.

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

In closing, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his hard work to ensure that anti-Semitism remains at the top of our country's foreign policy agenda. I, too, echo my colleagues' on the other side of the aisle plea to this administration in a bipartisan way to appoint a Special Envoy.

If I can just conclude by saying that I am the son of a World War II veteran. My father was a bombardier on a B-17. He was part of the D-day air campaign. He bombed the Nazis. We saw the horrors of Nazi Germany. I have been to Auschwitz to see the horrors of the gas chambers and what the Nazis perpetrated against the Jewish people. We thought it was stamped out then. We thought it was over. And yet it is not. It is hard to believe that so many years later, anti-Semitism and neo-Nazis still exist in this world.

It is my sincere hope, with this Special Envoy we can truly make a difference—the Greatest Generation fought against it—and that this scourge will be eliminated entirely from the planet.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this particular measure.

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

In closing, let me say that I strongly support this bipartisan bill. As all of my colleagues have said, we can never become complacent when we see anti-Semitism rear its ugly head. We need to reject it. We need to fight it. We need to shine a light in all the dark corners so it has no place to hide and fester.

What does that look like when it comes to foreign policy?

It starts by appointing a senior diplomat, someone we can point to with confidence and say, “You are leading America’s effort to grapple with this problem around the world.”

This bill would make sure that that seat will not remain vacant the way it has for the last 2 years. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I am proud that we have such bipartisan support for this legislation.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 221, the “Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.”

H.R. 221 amends the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to allow the monitoring and combatting of Anti-Semitism globally.

H.R. 221 requires that the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism be a presidentially-appointed and Senate confirmed position.

This position holds the rank of Ambassador and will report directly to the Secretary of State.

H.R. 221 requires the President nominate a Special Envoy no later than 90 days after the bill’s enactment and no more than 120 days after the position becomes vacant.

Since the passing of the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004, Congress has found

that in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent, threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries these attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and lethality.

The Kantor Center, a research department at Tel Aviv University focused on the interdisciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II to the present day, recorded 327 worldwide major incidents of violence, vandalism, and desecration in 2017.

This number, 327, does not represent all incidents, only the major incidents—arson, weapon and weaponless attacks, serious threats, vandalism, and desecration.

Targets of these attacks include people, synagogues, community centers and schools, cemeteries and memorial sites, and private property.

There has also been an increase in harassment and abuse, both in person and digitally.

Anti-Semitic attacks are human rights violations and they need to be treated that way.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 221 which establishes a Special Envoy that will serve, not only as the primary advisor to the Government, but will also coordinate efforts relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism showing the United States’ commitment to human rights worldwide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 221.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 267;

Passage of H.R. 267;

The motion to recommit on H.R. 265;

and,

Passage of H.R. 265.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 267)

making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 228, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—193

Abraham	Gosar	Palazzo
Aderholt	Granger	Palmer
Allen	Graves (GA)	Pence
Amodei	Graves (LA)	Perry
Armstrong	Graves (MO)	Posey
Axne	Green (TN)	Ratcliffe
Babin	Griffith	Reed
Bacon	Grothman	Reschenthaler
Baird	Guest	Rice (SC)
Balderson	Guthrie	Riggleman
Banks	Hagedorn	Roby
Barr	Harris	Rodgers (WA)
Bergman	Hartzler	Roe, David P.
Biggs	Hern, Kevin	Rogers (AL)
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (UT)	Hice (GA)	Rooney (FL)
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Rose, John W.
Brady	Hill (AR)	Rouzer
Brooks (AL)	Holding	Roy
Brooks (IN)	Hollingsworth	Rutherford
Buchanan	Hudson	Scalise
Buck	Huizenga	Schweikert
Budd	Hunter	Scott, Austin
Burchett	Hurd (TX)	Shimkus
Burgess	Johnson (LA)	Simpson
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Smith (MO)
Calvert	Johnson (SD)	Smith (NE)
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Smith (NJ)
Chabot	Joyce (OH)	Smucker
Cheney	Joyce (PA)	Spano
Cline	Katko	Stauber
Cloud	Kelly (MS)	Stefanik
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Steil
Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Steube
Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Stewart
Comer	Kinzinger	Stivers
Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Taylor
Cook	LaHood	Thompson (PA)
Crawford	Lamborn	Thornberry
Crenshaw	Latta	Timmons
Cunningham	Lesko	Tipton
Curtis	Long	Turner
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Upton
Delgado	Lucas	Wagner
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Walberg
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Walden
Duffy	Marino	Walker
Duncan	Marshall	Walorski
Dunn	Massie	Waltz
Emmer	McCarthy	Watkins
Estes	McCaul	Weber (TX)
Ferguson	McClintock	Webster (FL)
Fitzpatrick	McHenry	Wenstrup
Fleischmann	McKinley	Westerman
Flores	Meadows	Williams
Fortenberry	Meuser	Wilson (SC)
Foxx (NC)	Miller	Wittman
Fulcher	Mitchell	Womack
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Woodall
Gallagher	Mooney (WV)	Wright
Gianforte	Mullin	Yoho
Gibbs	Newhouse	Young
Gohmert	Norman	Zeldin
Gonzalez (OH)	Nunes	
Gooden	Olson	

NAYS—228

Adams	Beyer	Brown (MD)
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Brownley (CA)
Allred	Blumenauer	Bustos
Amash	Blunt Rochester	Butterfield
Barragán	Bonamici	Carbajal
Bass	Boyle, Brendan	Cárdenas
Beatty	F.	Carson (IN)
Bera	Brindisi	Cartwright

Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espaillat  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gotthelmer  
Green (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan

NOT VOTING—12

Arrington  
Bucshon  
Carter (TX)  
Davidson (OH)

□ 1605

Ms. SPANBERGER, Messrs. RUSH, LEWIS, and COSTA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, KING of New York, CHABOT, SPANO, and CALVERT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 22.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 22.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 180, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 23]

YEAS—244

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Axne  
Barragan  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cardenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Davis, Rodney  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espaillat  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)

Watson Coleman  
Welch  
  
NAYS—180  
Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Billirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Fox (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
  
Wexton  
Wild  
  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth  
  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Stauber  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—9

Bucshon  
Carter (TX)  
Davidson (OH)  
Frankel  
Jones  
Mast  
Roy  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner

□ 1615

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 23.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies



Cole	Hunter	Riggleman
Collins (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Roby
Collins (NY)	Johnson (OH)	Rodgers (WA)
Comer	Johnson (SD)	Roe, David P.
Conaway	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Cook	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Crawford	Joyce (PA)	Rooney (FL)
Crenshaw	Kelly (MS)	Rose, John W.
Curtis	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
DesJarlais	King (IA)	Roy
Diaz-Balart	King (NY)	Rutherford
Duffy	Kustoff (TN)	Scalise
Duncan	LaHood	Schweikert
Dunn	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Emmer	Lamborn	Shimkus
Estes	Latta	Simpson
Ferguson	Lesko	Smith (MO)
Fleischmann	Long	Smith (NE)
Flores	Loudermilk	Smucker
Fortenberry	Lucas	Spano
Fox (NC)	Luetkemeyer	Stauber
Fulcher	Marchant	Steil
Gaetz	Marino	Steube
Gallagher	Marshall	Stewart
Gianforte	Massie	Stivers
Gibbs	McCarthy	Taylor
Gohmert	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Gonzalez (OH)	McClintock	Thornberry
Gooden	McHenry	Timmons
Gosar	McKinley	Tipton
Granger	Meadows	Turner
Graves (GA)	Meuser	Wagner
Graves (LA)	Miller	Walberg
Graves (MO)	Mitchell	Walker
Green (TN)	Moolenaar	Walorski
Griffith	Mooney (WV)	Waltz
Grothman	Mullin	Watkins
Guest	Newhouse	Weber (TX)
Guthrie	Norman	Webster (FL)
Hagedorn	Nunes	Wenstrup
Harris	Olson	Westerman
Hartzler	Palazzo	Williams
Hern, Kevin	Palmer	Wilson (SC)
Hice (GA)	Pence	Wittman
Higgins (LA)	Perry	Womack
Hill (AR)	Posey	Woodall
Holding	Ratcliffe	Wright
Hollingsworth	Reed	Yoho
Hudson	Reschenthaler	Young
Huizenga	Rice (SC)	Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—7

Bucshon	Frankel	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Jones	
Davidson (OH)	Mast	

□ 1632

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLRED). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, New York

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S THREAT TO DECLARE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO BUILD A BORDER WALL

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has threatened to build his wall and has put out of work over 800,000 Americans through his Trump shutdown, and just today he doubled down on a threat to declare a national

emergency so he could usurp Congress and trample on our Constitution.

These bully tactics may have worked running his business, but they will not work running our country.

Let me promise the American people right now, Democrats in Congress will fight and disallow Trump to waste your hard-earned taxpayer dollars on his ridiculous wall. That is why I have introduced legislation to stop the wall.

My This Land Is Our Land Act will counter the many threats Trump has made to get his medieval and ineffective wall: It won't allow him to build it on public land; it won't allow him to take away people's private land by using eminent domain; and, most importantly, it won't allow him to use fake national emergencies.

So let me finish by paraphrasing Ronald Reagan: Mr. Trump, give up your wall.

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

#### RECOGNIZING MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERVISORS STEVE CHUCRI AND BILL GATES

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the just completed chairmanship of Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Chucri and to congratulate the incoming chairman, Supervisor Bill Gates.

Maricopa County is the Nation's fastest growing county, and Steve Chucri has had a lot to do with our success. He has led efforts on the board of supervisors to create a healthier urban environment, foster more job connections, fight homelessness, and sustain good governance. We are thankful for his service as chairman of the board of supervisors.

Incoming chairman is Supervisor Bill Gates, and I congratulate him on his new post. I know he will continue to lead Maricopa County well throughout this next year.

I am grateful for individuals like Steve Chucri and Bill Gates who help to make Maricopa County an attractive destination to millions of men, women, and children.

#### SIGN THE BILL AND OPEN UP THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, to the White House: Sign the bill and open up the government.

Today, the President is in my home State, impossible for him to see the entire border on the southern border and to realize that work has been done for almost two decades on barriers, and

that is why only 12 known or alleged terrorists have crossed that border as compared to the unfenced northern border, which was where the 2000 terrorists coming across the border as the century turned occurred.

Tomorrow, there will be faithful Federal employees who will not get their money, many in Texas: 9,000 Treasury employees are stationed in Texas, 5,700 Homeland Security; the airports in my district, with 51,000 screeners, may miss their first paychecks; and Johnson Space Center—hardworking Americans.

This is no time for one's ego or one's preference of what type of barrier. It is a time for those of us who care about border security, Democrats who give billions of dollars, including \$1.3 billion that we gave in this budget and \$1.6 billion.

Open the government and pay these people their checks.

I look forward to meeting with Federal employees. Call my office. We want to give you as much help as we can.

Open the government. That is what should be done.

Mr. Speaker, because this President insists on an immoral and ineffective border wall, he has shut down the government and said he would be proud to do it.

This is a presidential temper tantrum.

The President clearly does not realize what he asking, and the impact this has on Americans throughout the nation.

In my homestate, I know that the consequences are real—mortgages and rent are not paid, car payments are not being made, spring tuition checks are not being paid, supplemental nutrition assistance.

Texas has 35,694 employees in agencies without appropriations.

With its vast size, Texas accounts for at least a few thousand workers in nearly every major federal agency.

Nearly 9,000 Treasury Department employees are stationed there, along with about 5,700 Homeland Security employees and 4,300 in the Department of Transportation.

Smaller agencies with particularly high concentrations of Texas-based employees include NASA and the Small Business Administration.

The impact to the city of Houston is not insignificant.

Houston is the nation's fourth largest city, and the shutdown is affecting us acutely.

To get to and from my district, I am proud to fly through George Bush international airport, in Houston.

I am proud to say that this airport is in my district, and these brave Americans who are on the front lines of protecting America, are working without pay.

TSA agents are considered essential employees and must report to work even though they aren't getting paid during the shutdown.

Screening areas at Bush and Hobby have not been impacted, but it's a different story in Dallas and New York.

At DFW, there has reportedly been a 200% to 300% increase in TSA agents calling out sick since the shutdown began.

Travelers waited in nearly hour-long security lines at New York's LaGuardia Airport on Monday.

The TSA worries lines may get even longer if more screeners call out sick.

Tomorrow could be a tipping point when 51,000 screeners may miss their first paychecks.

TSA agents are considered essential employees and must report to work even though they aren't getting paid during the shutdown.

Houston is also home to one of the greatest aeronautical institutions all the world—the Johnson Space Center.

There are more than 16,000 NASA employees still out of work as the federal government shutdown.

The partial government shutdown impacts 800,000 of the 2.1 million federal workers nationwide, including 16,700 NASA employees, which accounts for 96 percent of the workforce.

Although most of NASA's employees will be furloughed, those responsible for keeping people and property safe are exempted from the shutdown.

For example, International Space Station operations will continue: about 200 of the 3,055 federal employees at Johnson Space Center in Houston will continue working primarily to keep the three astronauts aboard the space station alive.

But that is only the beginning of the problem.

Houston citizens are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

Federally funded housing programs are in jeopardy as the shutdown stretches on.

For example, rural home loans financed by the USDA are not an option.

Texans who were affected by Hurricane Harvey are still waiting for federal aid, and the shutdown won't make it any easier to get that aid.

Harris County is putting a hold on Harvey recovery projects that relied in part on federal money.

The Treasury Department's loss of funding means some Texas wineries and breweries can't get federal approval of labels allowing their products to be sold across state lines.

Federal employees are required to work throughout the shutdown without pay, like corrections officers and Border Patrol agents.

Agencies such as the national parks, NASA and some IRS employees have been sent home or furloughed in Houston, Texas.

There are any number of cascading effects—Local restaurants are feeling the impact as well; federal employees who frequent nearby eateries for meals are no longer eating out.

Federal courts are grinding to a halt and national parks are shuttered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN FREEDOM FUND

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of veterans who have come together to found the non-profit American Freedom Fund.

These three patriots—Petty Officer Gabriel Stecker, Major Rob Miller, and Lieutenant Donald Bramer, a fellow Kentuckian—have selflessly taken on

an issue that faces many of our veterans when separated from service or returned home from operations abroad, to include loneliness and void of community, preventable circumstances that magnify wounds both seen and unseen.

Through the American Freedom Fund's mission of athletics, education, and advocacy, their programs have brought hundreds of Active Reserve and veteran servicemembers together to play softball, enjoy sporting events, find that next career, or, more importantly, know that they are never alone.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I commend these patriots and the troops of volunteers that make up the American Freedom Fund for their dedication and continued service to this Nation and its heroes.

#### SHUTDOWN IS HARMING THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise the alarm and sound the alarm about the shutdown and how it is harming the people of central Virginia.

Across the country, hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are working without pay or are furloughed, including critical law enforcement personnel. The best way to illustrate the destructive effects of this shutdown is to share a story from one of my constituents in Virginia's Seventh District. She said to us:

My husband is a Federal employee and the sole provider for our family, and right now, we don't know when he'll get paid. Because I got sick last year, we now have less money in the bank, and we're not sure how we can hold on.

While he could make more money in the private sector, my husband believes that working in a Federal job is his way of making a difference through public service—and every day, he is proud to go into the office at 5 a.m. to do what he can to serve his country.

One of the hardest days of his life was when he came home and said that earlier that day, he had told those under him that they were furloughed—just days before Christmas.

We are begging you to reopen the government.

This story demonstrates the importance of fixing this mess and reopening the government.

I encourage my colleagues and leadership to act now in a bipartisan way to protect the livelihoods of these hardworking families.

□ 1645

#### LET'S GET THE GOVERNMENT OPEN NOW

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, recently, I have heard many of my Democratic colleagues, and even more in the media, saying that our President has manufactured a crisis at the southern border and that there is no need for funding to secure it properly.

Tell Ingrid Lake there is no crisis. Her 6-year-old boy, Lennox, sustained a life-altering injury as a result of an illegal alien's criminal behavior, and that individual had previously been deported 15 times.

Tell Officer Ronil Singh's family there is no crisis. Officer Singh was recently shot in cold blood by an illegal alien after a traffic stop.

Last year alone, border security intercepted about 17,000 people with no criminal convictions at our border.

Members, those who oppose our President at any cost, refuse to see the truth. But, to me, and I believe to all who objectively consider the circumstances, there is clearly a full-blown legitimate crisis. It is one we have been ignoring for far too long. An overwhelming majority of constituents calling my office in the last few days agree.

Mr. Speaker, let's get this government open now, and let's authorize the money necessary to ensure the security of our people.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand as a Member of Congress for my first floor speech. I purposefully rise to speak about the issue of gun violence and, specifically, H.R. 8.

Last year, 40,000 people in America died of gun violence, over half to suicide. Another 80,000 people were wounded, literally caught in the crossfire.

This week, I was honored to stand with Gabby Giffords—a woman whose public service inspired my own—the Speaker, and Chairman THOMPSON to cosponsor H.R. 8.

Background checks work and the public knows we must pass this legislation to save lives.

As I worked with Gabby Giffords, I was reminded of the words of Robert Frost marking JFK's inauguration. He wrote: "Courage is in the air."

We must act on that courage.

#### IT IS UP TO CONGRESS TO ACT

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the information is clear:

17,000 criminals were apprehended by Customs and Border Patrol agents at our southern border last year.

90 percent of the heroin ravaging American families comes across our southern border.

400,000 immigrants were apprehended attempting to come here illegally last year.

2,400 pounds of fentanyl were seized by our Border Patrol last year alone, enough to kill every living American.

The Customs and Border Patrol agency states, in no uncertain terms, a barrier or a wall is essential to do their job.

Even if these facts are trivialized, no one in Congress can seriously claim that we do not have a crisis at our southern border. It is up to Congress to act. The first duty of government is to afford protection to our citizens, and our citizens are demanding it.

I have received hundreds of calls to my office, urging us to follow the plan offered by Homeland Security experts to secure our border, build a barrier, enforce our immigration laws, and do our jobs.

#### END THE CHARADE AND REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the son of refugees, and the first Eritrean American to be elected to the House of Representatives.

My father, who immigrated to this country 35 years ago, sat in this same Chamber up there in the gallery only a week ago to watch his son be sworn into the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a simple, solemn, and serious request: that this administration stop its demonization of immigrants and reopen the government.

The administration has manufactured a crisis based on fear and is now holding our government effectively hostage, blatantly causing harm to the economic security of American families across the Nation.

Bruce, a constituent in my district, had to close down his small business in Estes Park as a result of the shutdown. As Rocky Mountain National Park remains closed, small businesses have continued to struggle under this burden.

Countless workers in my district—Federal lab workers, national park employees, national firefighters, weather forecasters, and many others—have been furloughed or are working without pay, and \$700 million in national parks' revenue in Colorado has been threatened.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Mr. President, end the charade and reopen the government now.

#### LET'S STAY AND OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I find it just fascinating that my Democratic colleagues come down here to the well of the House to talk about opening up the government when, indeed, it is

their reluctance to negotiate at all that is keeping the government shut down. On day 1 of the shutdown, it was zero money for new border barriers. On day 20, it is still zero money for new border barriers.

And to suggest to this body and to the Nation that, indeed, they are negotiating in good faith, I just find it incomprehensible.

I can tell you that we are ready to negotiate. In fact, they have been saying, it is their way or the highway. And do you know what? They are going to hit the highway in just a few hours and get out of here.

I think we ought to all stay here, let's negotiate, let's get a result, let's open the government, but, more importantly, let's protect our borders and communities across the country.

#### LET'S REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this body has passed bipartisan bills to open up the government, yet this shutdown could become the longest one in the history of this country.

My communities in Houston are feeling the real effects of this shutdown. Over one-in-five families in my district depend on food stamps. This shutdown continues to threaten their food security and, in some cases, their health and well-being. This issue hits our seniors especially hard, because over 11 percent of food stamp recipients are seniors and over three-quarters of those live alone.

In Texas, almost 30,000 Federal employees are furloughed or working with no guarantee of a paycheck.

At Houston's Hobby Airport, in my district, we may put air travelers at risk. TSA employees, air traffic controllers, and Customs and Border Protection agents are required to work without pay.

No one should be forced to barter for their rent or food, be evicted from their home, or be forced to work without pay.

We have passed bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown. Let's reopen our government and let's pay our workers.

#### LET'S PUT A BARRIER WHERE WE NEED IT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats refuse to open the government. They won't provide more than a dollar. The Speaker said she would give a dollar for a border barrier. That is outrageous.

How many people in this body have walls around their homes and live in gated communities. How many people in this body at night check to make sure their door is locked, not because a burglar can't get around it, but be-

cause they love the people in their home and they don't want burglars having it too easy getting in, even though they could, but it slows people down. That is what a border barrier does.

And for the little girl that was killed by an illegal alien in my district and thrown in a well, this is not a charade. This is life or death for many people.

Let's put a barrier where we need it, and then we can have everybody getting paid.

#### THE COST OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we are paying a high price for the President's demand for more than \$5 billion to fund his wall.

The shutdown not only hurts those directly affected, it has begun to spread to the broader economy.

The shutdown slows economic growth, weakens business confidence, softens consumer spending, and depresses lending.

JPMorgan Chase estimates the economic costs to be \$1.5 billion per week during the shutdown.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's, says that if the shutdown lasts into February, economic growth could be reduced by \$8.7 billion.

President Trump's own Council of Economic Advisers projects that economic growth will slow every week that the shutdown continues.

In addition, the rating agency Fitch has warned that a prolonged shutdown could lead to a downgrade of U.S. debt. This will raise borrowing costs for companies and consumers across the country.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce states that the shutdown is harming the American people, the business community, and the economy.

Mr. President, you are playing a very dangerous game, and we all will pay the price.

#### BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are here to have a conversation about the situation at our southern border.

The President calls it a border crisis and a humanitarian crisis, yet others call it immoral to give more funding to secure our Nation at the southern border. So what really is the situation?

We are in the 20th day of a government shutdown over the question of: Is the security of the American people at risk because of what is happening at



our southern border? And, if it is, what should we do about it?

Tonight, my colleagues and I want to share the facts regarding the situation, and some stories from our districts, that illustrate why we support building a wall, as well as securing our border in other ways.

For me, it is a matter of three things:

The need to stop the flow of illegal drugs;

The safety of innocent families in our districts, as well as the safety of innocent individuals who want to come here and immigrate to our country; and

Third, I believe it is a matter of fairness.

Let me share what I mean.

I believe, and I think most people agree, that we have a drug crisis in our country. I see it every week when I am back in my district, when I talk to my law enforcement, when I talk to my families who have lost a child through a heroin overdose, when I see the rising foster care numbers in our State because their parents are drug addicted. We have a crisis.

I recently had a chance to travel to the Nogales-Mariposa port of entry that is south of Tucson, in Arizona, and boy was it eye-opening. There I learned from our Border Patrol agents that the drug cartels are waging a war, basically, against our country, and, sadly, in many ways, they are winning. They have more money, they have more manpower, and they are using drug mules to carry drugs across the unsecured part of our border. They are involving the gangs that come down, and then those travel up into our districts. I am from Missouri, and we see it there in Missouri.

Last year, sadly, more than 72,000 Americans died from a drug overdose. That is more than died in the entire Vietnam war, the entire war, and this happens every year. That is also more deaths than people who passed away in our country from traffic accidents and homicides combined. Think about it.

When we hear the nightly news and there is a homicide, that somebody has been shot and killed, it is tragic. Or we hear a report about somebody dying in a car accident, it is terrible. But all of the people in America who died from the traffic accidents and every person who died in a homicide, if you put those numbers together, that does not come close to the number of people who have died from drug overdoses. We have got to do better.

I have got some pictures of some individuals who are victims of this drug crisis that is a result of our open borders. But they are not just statistics. The reason I put up their pictures here on this poster is because they are not a number. They have names. They lived. People loved them. They were sons, daughters, coworkers, and they were friends.

The lady on the far side with her little boy, her name is Victoria and her

son is Andrew. Now she didn't pass away, but she has been addicted to meth, so that when she gave birth to Andrew, he was addicted and had to go through withdrawal symptoms, and she struggled with a drug addiction.

□ 1700

The young man in the middle is named Eamon, and he, sadly, passed away from a heroin overdose.

The mother here and her daughter, she is still alive, but she is struggling with drug addiction, through heroin, and she has lost custody of her little girl.

Like I said, we have a record number of foster kids right now in America because of parents losing their children to drug addiction.

A large number of the people have drug addictions due to opioids. In fact, according to the CDC, of more than 72,000 drug overdoses, many of them were due to fentanyl, which is also coming across our southern border. In fact, fentanyl killed 30,000 Americans last year.

The Border Patrol is doing a great job with the resources they have, but they need more help. They found and interdicted 1.2 tons of fentanyl—1.2 tons. That is enough to kill every American. It takes only 2 milligrams of fentanyl to kill an individual. If you add up how much damage 1.2 tons of fentanyl could do, it adds up to over 500 million people who could be killed. It is unbelievable.

Then cocaine, they seized enough cocaine at the southern border last year to fill 141 1-ton pickup trucks. I made a poster just to show this because a lot of us are familiar with pickup trucks. We have 1-ton trucks,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton trucks. 141 of them, picture them filled with cocaine. That is how much was caught by our Border Patrol at the southern border. We have no idea how much more is not caught.

Next one I want to talk about is methamphetamine. They seized 124 tons of methamphetamine. Here is a face, and maybe you have seen these posters or pictures before. This is what meth does to individuals in a very short amount of time. It is awful. It is so addictive.

At one time, Missouri was called the meth capital of our country. It tied with California for several years. It is a terrible distinction to have, but there were meth labs everywhere. Our law enforcement was doing as good a job as they could, interdicting and shutting down these meth labs.

Now when I talk to my law enforcement at home, they say that we have hardly any meth labs, but the reason is sad. The reason is because the meth is still there, but it is coming from across our border. It is part of this tonnage coming up. That is why we have to build a wall and secure the border.

I could talk about heroin. They seized 6,500 pounds of heroin. That is over 3 tons. In Missouri, in my State, we lost 380 people to heroin overdose last year.

This is the fact: 90 percent of the heroin in our country comes from across the southern border. The drug cartels aren't backing off. They don't care. They see this as a revenue opportunity. They don't care about people.

Just in 2 years, there has been a 73 percent increase in fentanyl that they have shoved across our border, a 38 percent increase in methamphetamine, a 22 percent increase in heroin. That just is what is seized.

Our Border Patrol needs some help. We have to stop this drug crisis.

But there is more. Besides drug deaths, there have been numerous deaths linked to illegal immigrants that come here.

Now, all of us support people coming here legally. Almost every one of us in the body have some story about a relative who came here, maybe they went through Ellis Island. I support legal immigration. But when we have an open border, anybody can come across.

Last year, they caught 17,000 people coming across the border who had criminal records. The ones who didn't get caught end up in our communities and, sadly, kill people like Officer Singh.

Our hearts were broken the day after Christmas when we heard this story of this legal immigrant who did it right. He came from Fiji. He immigrated here, and his goal was to become a police officer. He wanted that so much, first to be a citizen, but then he traveled 4 hours every day to attend his police academy.

He learned English. He took English classes to learn the language, so that he could be a good police officer. And he was a good one. He was an honorable one.

An illegal immigrant who came across our southern border shot and killed him. This is why we have to secure our border, and we can do it.

I am also concerned about the innocent people who are being told a lie by the drug cartels. They are giving their life savings to a coyote to come here. They are brought to the border and then travel across the border.

Doctors Without Borders tells an upsetting statistic to me, and to anybody who is listening, that one-third of all the women who try to make that trip are sexually assaulted.

This current system is incentivizing them, with an open border, to try to make that trek, and they are being harmed. Instead, we have to close that border and give them the tools that will help them come here legally, come here safely. That is what we all want.

Lastly, I want to talk about the issue of fairness. Right now, there are 700,000 people who are in the process of becoming legal citizens of our country, trying to come here and be an immigrant, following our laws.

In my district, I am working with some families who are trying to get relatives here through the legal system, and it is amazing what you go through. First of all, it takes years. It

takes years, but they fill out the paperwork. I have seen the pictures of the stacks of paperwork that they have to file with our immigration system to get them here.

There are 700,000 people right now trying to do that. It is just not fair to allow people to jump the line and to just walk across.

Because of the way our laws are now, if you bring a child into our country, they can hold them only 20 days, and then you have to let them go. So they know that.

I learned that the drug cartels at the border actually have attorneys. They are a big business. They are something else.

They know the laws. They know they are going to be let out, and they are here. That is just not right. We can do better. We can secure the border.

\$5.7 billion in the scheme of things is not that much. We give \$50 billion every year for foreign aid, so it is about a tenth of the foreign aid we give to other countries to secure their borders.

Why don't we secure our country? We can do that.

I wanted to share some of those facts and invite some of my colleagues to come here tonight to share their thoughts on this very important issue that is before us as a nation and to hear their stories.

The first person I want to yield to is the gentleman from Montana, GREG GIANFORTE.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for focusing the attention of this Chamber on this crisis at our border and the need for reform.

America's borders have been too open for too long. As a result, we face a humanitarian and national security crisis that is getting worse. Congress has a responsibility to the American people to address it.

Providing for our Nation's security is the chief function of the Federal Government. It is past time for leaders on the other side of the aisle to get serious, do their jobs, stop playing political games, and secure our border.

What is happening at the border and to those seeking to enter our country illegally is a tragedy. More than 30 percent of migrant women making the trip to our southern border have been sexually assaulted during their journey. More than two-thirds of all migrants making the trek have reported violence.

Our broken immigration system encourages parents to send their kids on a dangerous journey by themselves.

The humanitarian tragedy is one element. Our open borders are also a threat to national security and community safety. Drug cartels, gangs, and human traffickers are exploiting our weak borders and bringing crime into our communities.

Last year, Border Patrol agents arrested 17,000 individuals with criminal records. About 800 gang members were caught trying to cross the border.

The crisis extends to Montana where our epidemic of meth use tears apart families and threatens our communities.

However, we no longer have Montana meth because of the good work of our law enforcement. Now we have Mexican meth. Law enforcement in Fergus County, Montana, tells me that they know when a shipment from Mexico arrives because they see an increase in crime. Domestic violence, burglaries, and violence are the result of Mexican meth coming into Montana communities.

Law enforcement in the State also told me that, in addition to an uptick in crime, addiction has left more families broken apart and more kids in foster care.

Law enforcement tells me that over 90 percent of all the crime we have in Montana is addiction-related.

The humanitarian crisis is not limited to our border. We can see it in our communities: crime, violence, and broken families. We must secure our borders.

One element of improving border security is a wall or a physical barrier. Walls work. The results bear it out. Walls at the border in San Diego, El Paso, Tucson, and Yuma have seen dramatic declines in the number of illegal immigrants crossing the border.

Facing an increasing humanitarian and national security crisis, it is past time that leaders across the aisle focus on securing the border. End the games. Get the job done and secure the border.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for the time and for her leadership on this issue.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I appreciate his comments. They were spot on.

We are seeing the same thing in Missouri with that meth coming up from Mexico and the record number of people in foster care. It just breaks your heart, and it doesn't have to be that way.

Mr. GIANFORTE. We must act.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Yes, we must act.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to invite my friend from Louisiana, MIKE JOHNSON, to share what he is seeing down there in Louisiana, what his constituents are saying, and what his thoughts are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman has given us this opportunity tonight to speak on the growing crisis at our southern border. It is a critical issue that our friends on the other side of the aisle are simply failing to address.

Over the course of this government shutdown, many have sought to dismiss the very real challenges that we are facing regarding human trafficking, sexual assault, and drug smuggling that clearly are occurring. Thousands of people are making the dan-

gerous journey to and across our southern border, and this has been the result.

What these same opponents fail to mention is the perverse incentives that exist for these crimes.

For example, our lax immigration laws have encouraged illegal immigration.

For example, the dramatic increase in unaccompanied minors and supposed family units at the border are a direct result of our catch-and-release policies.

The President made his case to the American people just a few nights ago, and he addressed the urgent need for border security. He is precisely right.

Securing our borders and protecting the American people must be a top priority of this Congress. It is our duty. It is important to maintain the strength and the sovereignty of our Nation.

A strong America is good not only for our national security and our prosperity, but it is good for all people around the world. As the last great superpower, we have to maintain our sovereignty and our strength, and it is important to do exactly that.

Here are just a few of the most devastating facts, and we will hear many of them tonight.

Last year, Customs and Border Protection agents apprehended 17,000 adults with existing criminal records.

In the past 2 years alone, ICE agents have arrested over 230,000 illegal aliens with a prior criminal history committed within our borders. That is assault, homicide, and sexual assault—violent crimes. Our border agents have arrested thousands of gang members and traffickers, and they have rescued countless children from exploitation.

By any objective measure, this is a humanitarian and a national security crisis. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignoring the facts or being dishonest.

Right now, so many of our friends on the other side are refusing to do what they have supported in the past, simply because it is now in line with President Trump's agenda.

□ 1715

When President Obama was in office, for example, all 54 Senate Democrats voted for \$46 billion in border security and hundreds of miles in border fencing.

What has changed, Mr. Speaker?

That is an important question. Do our friends across the aisle need to hear from the families who have lost loved ones at the hands of an illegal alien? Do they deny that children being smuggled across the border deserve reprieve?

Sadly, the legislation that has come before the House this week fails to address the extraordinary crisis we face. This isn't an honest attempt to end the shutdown. These aren't good faith negotiations. This is a political stunt. These bills will not be considered by the Senate; they will not be signed by the President; and everybody knows

that. Rather than working on solutions, the Democrats here have chosen to waste the people's time with these symbolic votes.

Not securing our border is an immoral act. What we have done here and what we are doing here is immoral by failing to address this issue. I commend the President and all of my Republican colleagues for taking this stand.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much. I appreciate your perspective down there from Louisiana.

You bring up the great point of the number of children coming across. I heard yesterday how Health and Human Services, which gets custody of these children, just does not have the capacity to house them and to take care of them. It is a crisis. That is why the President says it is a humanitarian crisis. So we have got to act.

Mr. Speaker, we started off in Missouri; we had Montana; we have gone down to Louisiana to hear their perspective; and now we go to North Carolina to hear from Representative TED BUDD.

I appreciate your being here, Representative BUDD, and we would love to hear what your thoughts are on this very important topic.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Thank you, as a friend and Congresswoman from Missouri, for yielding and holding such an important and timely Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Trump went to the American people and rightfully made the case for the border security proposal he has submitted to Congress, and it is a proposal that I fully support.

This plan, which was developed by border security and law enforcement professionals, takes necessary steps to secure our border, protect our communities, and it ends the plague of crimes that were committed by illegal aliens against American citizens.

The truth is America is at a decision point. It is time to decide what kind of country, exactly, we want to be: a country founded on the rule of law or on lawlessness.

We have seen States across the country declare themselves a sanctuary for illegal immigrants, willing to put the lives of U.S. citizens at risk for political purposes. We have lawmakers here in this Chamber who are intent on eliminating our Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, ICE, which is tasked with enforcing our immigration laws.

We know that the vast majority of immigrants are great people, and it would be foolish to even think otherwise. In fact, legal immigration—that is legal, with an L—historically has been beneficial economically, socially, and culturally to the United States, and I have no doubt that we are going to continue to invite and welcome legal immigrants with open arms to our country every day. We do that for about 1 million a year. We are a very

welcoming and generous country. But to ignore the crisis at our southern border is also dangerous.

Throughout 2018, Customs and Border Patrol seized 1.7 million pounds of narcotics. We have seen a 38 percent increase in methamphetamines and a 73 percent increase in fentanyl coming across our borders. These drugs are taking the lives of tens of thousands of our people every year—I think we heard the number 72,000 last year, including many of those from my home State of North Carolina. For those who are living with addiction, these drugs steal their dignity, and they steal their self-worth.

The trafficking of women and children across our southern border is equally as egregious. In his address to the Nation the other night, the President called this a crisis of the heart and a crisis of the soul.

The Department of Homeland Security has also been very clear regarding the national security implications that come with having a border that can be easily accessed by those who want to cause us harm.

To conclude, I will say that, right now, the government is in a shutdown because President Trump requested funding for a border wall that Democrats once supported when there was a different President.

To be frank, the current shutdown isn't due to policy difference; it is due to politics. So let's put politics aside, and let's do what is right for our constituents and for our country.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said, Representative.

Mr. Speaker, now we have my colleague and friend to the south in Arkansas. Representative FRENCH HILL wants to share a little bit. I appreciate his being here tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. I thank my friend from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for her leadership on this issue. Thanks for letting us gather together on the people's House floor tonight and talk about this issue and try to lay out for the American people who are watching some of the facts associated with this situation. I am not sure they always get the full story.

When I came to Congress, I knew the only way to really understand this border security issue was to go to the border. Since I was elected in 2014, I have been down on the southwest border four times and am getting ready to go back in just a few days.

On those trips, I meet with Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement, county judges, citizens, and community leaders. We all talk about the issue of what is the definition of border security: the physical barrier aspect? the technology? the observation? the manpower? the coordination with local law enforcement?

We always talk about drugs and drug cartels. You have heard from our leader tonight that they outman and

outgun American law enforcement, Federal and State.

Just last week, I got a note from my good friend that we lost another young person from my high school due to heroin and fentanyl overdose.

I carry a little packet of Sweet'N Low in my pocket, Mr. Speaker, because a gram of fentanyl, which is the size of a Sweet'N Low packet, has enough fentanyl in it to kill 500 Americans. So it is killing our kids, Mr. Speaker, and it is coming across the border with Mexico.

Physical barriers shape the strategic deployment of our force. That is why county judges support it, mayors support it, and our Border Patrol supports it. This is why, over the past 20 years, when President Bush proposed it, President Clinton proposed it, Bush 43 proposed it, and Obama supported it, we built fence, starting in San Diego. We see, where there is fencing, 90 percent reductions in people crossing illegally.

Fences work. Physical barriers work. Physical barriers shape our force deployment and allow us to better use our manpower and coordinate our very understaffed and undergunned forces.

Secondly, it is increasingly frustrating to me that this is a crisis of politics in this House Chamber and in the United States Senate. It is utterly hypocritical on the part of our leaders in the House and our minority in the Senate to not see this need for humanitarian assistance on the border and physical security on the border. Republicans have proposed this time and time again last year. We got no Democratic votes for it last year.

I want my friends on the other side of the aisle to be able to make the moral distinction between those who come to our country legally and those who come here illegally. It seems to me that is a straightforward promise. America is a nation of immigrants. We are the most generous and welcoming country in the world.

One other point I want to make before I close, my friend from Missouri, is to talk about people seeking asylum here, people coming to our border with no papers, no documentation.

There was a news story this week about the Bangladeshi pair of men trying to come in and cross the border, interviewed on national television. We see, time and time again, people come from Bangladesh and from all over the world. They come to Mexico; they come to our border; and they have no passport.

How do they come into the United States? They have no documents. They claim asylum, credible fear, and yet here, Mr. Speaker, is a driver's license handed to me by a Border Patrol agent in Chula Vista, California, of a Saudi Arabian born in the early 1990s, and yet we have no record of someone from Saudi Arabia crossing at Chula Vista in the time frame that this driver's license was found in the Chula Vista station outside San Diego.

We have a crisis on this border, and when people tell you there isn't one, they are not telling you the truth. That should terrify us that we don't know who is coming across our border, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for holding this hour. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to the American people about the drugs and the impact on our youth and the impact on our national security by not having a secure southern border.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman, that was excellent; and I appreciate you bringing a picture so we can all see that what the Border Patrol and others are running into is that individuals, clearly, are here from other countries illegally, and that is why we need to secure this border. It is very concerning what is happening as a result of having an open border.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that my colleague from Florida has shared a little bit of his time this evening to come join us.

JOHN RUTHERFORD, I appreciate your being here, and I look forward to hearing what you have to share tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are calling the situation at the southern border a manufactured crisis. What a heartless and naive thing to say.

Tell that to the families of almost 300 people who die every week from the heroin flooding across our southern border.

Tell that to the ICE agents who seized enough synthetic opioids in 2017 to kill every single American by overdose.

Or come on down with me to the 2100 block of Jefferson Street in Jacksonville, Florida, and you tell that to the medical examiner who saw, in 2017, the highest rate of fentanyl-related deaths in the entire State of Florida.

A manufactured crisis? Hardly, Mr. Speaker.

Thankfully, the experts at DHS who are on the ground doing the good work to protect us understand what is necessary to combat this crisis, and they have asked Congress for our help. These DHS professionals have told us that security at the border requires a multilayered approach that includes additional personnel, increased technology, access roads, and, yes, a wall.

The wall is not and never has been the beginning and end to border security, but it is an important part of a comprehensive security plan. Let's give the DHS the money for the wall, get out of the way, and let the folks on the ground do their job.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent 41 years of my life as a law enforcement officer, including 12 years as sheriff. One thing I know firsthand is the judgment of the patrolman should amplify larger than

the back-office bureaucrat. Listen to those in operations. Those who would argue against the pleas of the DHS either haven't seen what is really going on or are intentionally ignoring the crisis.

For my friends on the other side of the aisle who are calling this a manufactured crisis, they know this isn't about the \$5 billion for the wall. In fact, most of them at one time or another have already voted to fund a wall. To them, it is really about not wanting to support our President. It is about being part of a resistance movement.

If you want to talk about a manufactured crisis, I can point you in the right direction, because it is manufactured in Central America, it is manufactured in South America, and it is being manufactured by drug cartels to be trafficked north and smuggled across the southern border and into our communities. I have seen firsthand the lives destroyed and the communities torn apart by this scourge coming through our porous southern border.

This bickering over one-tenth of 1 percent of our annual budget has become a hyperbolic political football, putting lives at risk. I say, enough, Mr. Speaker. Our Federal law enforcement officers on the ground at the border have asked for our help, and we have a solemn obligation to give them what they need to keep Americans safe.

A manufactured crisis? Hardly, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. HARTZLER. You sure know what you are talking about because of the lifelong service that you have given to law enforcement.

I loved what you shared. It is time to listen to those people on the ground and in operations. That is who we need to listen to.

You are right. When I had a chance to go to the border, the Border Patrol are saying we need this. They are there every day risking their lives trying to keep us safe.

So thank you for sharing your firsthand perspective from law enforcement and what you are hearing. I appreciate it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to another colleague of mine, whom I actually had to travel to the border with back in October. She is from Arizona, which is where the port was in Mariposa, Nogales, that we went to.

DEBBIE LESKO, thank you for joining us tonight. I really appreciate your sharing with America and with our colleagues here about what you are seeing from Arizona and your perspective on the need to build this security wall at the border.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Thank you very much, Representative HARTZLER; it was really eye-opening when we went down to the Arizona border. I have been there a number of times, but I learned directly from not only the high-ranking officials, but from rank-and-file agents.

When I asked if a border fence was necessary to protect our Nation, they said, absolutely, yes. That is part of the solution. We have a major problem.

Today, I would like to focus on some people from Arizona, Representative HARTZLER, who were killed. They were killed by illegal immigrants who came into our country illegally. So I rise today because our open borders have caused a humanitarian and security crisis.

When the Democrats say that this is a manufactured crisis, that is absolutely false. I have seen firsthand and have talked to people firsthand. We have a crisis on our southern border.

□ 1730

Arizonans know the challenges of an unsecured border all too well. Just ask Mary Ann Mendoza whose son, Brandon, a Mesa, Arizona, police officer, was killed in a head-on collision caused by an illegal immigrant.

The illegal immigrant who killed Brandon was arrested in the nineties for burglary and assaulting a police officer. He never showed up for court and was reapprehended at the border in 2002 attempting to come back into our country. Unfortunately, a lenient judge let him stay. Because of that, this law enforcement officer was killed.

Arizona Border Agent Brian Terry's life was taken by a group of traffickers hoping to smuggle drugs into our country. When Agent Terry and three other border agents tried to stop their illegal activity, they shot him. Perhaps had our border not been so porous, Agent Brian Terry would still be with us today.

A rancher from Cochise County, Arizona, Robert Krentz, was killed by an illegal immigrant at home on his ranch.

Unfortunately, there are way too many stories just like these of innocent people getting killed by illegal immigrants.

I live in a border State. I have been to the border a number of times. Most recently, I visited the United States-Mexico border in Nogales with the gentlewoman, where I met with Customs and Border Protection agents. I asked the agents if they thought the border fence would help. As I said before, they said absolutely, yes, that a fence will help in our efforts to combat illegal immigration and other illegal activity across the border.

The crisis we are dealing with at the border is not just illegal immigration. There are illicit and illegal drugs flowing through our borders; human trafficking; and, as we learned from the agents, dangerous cartels at the border that are exploiting vulnerable children and mothers. In fact, according to Doctors Without Borders, more than 30 percent of the women who come to the southern border have been sexually assaulted on their journey.

This is something that is up to Congress to fix. We need border security. The fence is just part of the solution.

We need technology like sensors and drones, so we have eyes where we can't have our agents. We need more boots on the ground. We have funded more agents on the ground. Let's hire more agents, so our resources aren't spread too thin.

What we are asking for is a multifaceted approach to border security. Democrats know this. In 2006, Democrats supported a border fence. CHUCK SCHUMER and then-Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton voted to fund \$52 billion for 700 miles of fencing. Now we are asking for \$5.7 billion. To me and you, that is a lot of money, but it really represents only one-tenth of 1 percent of our spending.

On December 20, the Republicans in the House voted to keep the government open and secure the border. Unfortunately, not one Democrat voted for the bill. Now we are in a situation where the government is shut down. They won't come to the table. They won't negotiate. They don't have a counteroffer.

I am willing to sit down and listen to their suggestions, but they haven't brought forward any suggestions. They are refusing to negotiate and refusing to deal with this national security crisis.

While Democrats refuse to come to the negotiating table, our brave Border Patrol and ICE agents continue their mission of protecting our borders, even without a paycheck. We should be supporting them by giving them the tools and resources they need to do their jobs and keep our Nation safe.

Instead, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are ignoring the public calls for border security. In fact, when Democrats repeatedly say, "We are for border security," I think their talk is talk. They need to walk the walk and listen to our law enforcement that tells them what we need. Part of that is a border fence.

President Trump addressed the Nation this week. Now it is up to Congress to address and solve the issue with legislation. Let's stop these political ploys and fund comprehensive border security.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her excellent summation of what is important. It was so touching. I thank her for bringing the pictures of Arizonans who have lost their lives due to Congress' failure to build the wall and keep us safe.

That is why we are here tonight, saying now is the time. We have to stop this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, PETE STAUBER. He is new to Congress. I am so glad to have him here. I appreciate him coming, and I look forward to hearing what he has to say from a Minnesotan's point of view.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the State of Missouri for her leadership. It is a privilege to stand here on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the pressing issue of border security. Across our southern border, we have thousands of miles of unprotected terrain where weapons, human trafficking victims, and drugs are easily smuggled into this country every single day.

Believe it or not, the drugs that are crossing our southern border even make their way to the most northern communities in my great State of Minnesota. Just last year, more than two dozen people were arrested for their involvement in a large heroin trafficking network that brought drugs to St. Louis County, where my family, friends, and constituents live. This is unacceptable.

During my 23 years as a law enforcement officer, I worked tirelessly to keep illegal drugs off the streets and out of the hands of our young children. I have given too many death notifications to unsuspecting parents. The pain and anguish of each family will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we recognize that our porous borders are intrinsically tied to the drug crisis, the rise in human trafficking, and illegal immigration in this country. I urge the Democratic leadership to put partisan politics aside so we can finally work together and secure our borders. The health and safety of the American people are depending on it, and doing nothing is no longer an option.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has that law enforcement background that is so critical right here in Congress. That is why we are glad he is here and appreciate him sharing. I can't imagine what he has gone through so many times, having to go to somebody's home—the parents—and face a mom and dad to tell them that their child has died.

That is why we are here today. I appreciate the gentleman's passion for this issue. I share it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, MIKE BOST, a colleague to the east. I thank him for being here tonight and appreciate him sharing about this important crisis that we have at our border.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for yielding and for putting this on tonight.

Mr. Speaker, if you have listened to this debate tonight, the colleagues that I serve with are explaining that there truly is a crisis. Unfortunately, there are those who claim that it is a manufactured crisis. Despite what the colleagues from the other side of the aisle say, it is not a manufactured crisis. It is not a new crisis, but it is an ever-growing crisis.

Let me tell you that I have had experience and understand the border from many years ago. While stationed in the United States Marine Corps in Yuma, Arizona, I actually worked at a site called P111 that was 3 miles off the Mexican border in Arizona. Every night, people would come across. Thinking they were seeing a border

fence, they would climb into the compound. Every night, we would have to call border security, and they would pick them up and take them back.

We talked about the crisis of drugs coming across. Let me tell you about the crisis that occurred at that time. Some very evil people would watch the desert, and they would kill these people trying to come across the border, who would then just be left because there was no ID for them.

But we can secure our border. It is an argument that has been going on in this House and in this Nation for some time.

Many of you who are older will remember that Ronald Reagan actually argued and put forth the idea with Tip O'Neill, the idea that they would do immigration reform, which Tip wanted, as long as they could secure the border, which the President wanted. Tip O'Neill got what he wanted. The President didn't get what he wanted, because the House didn't pass the funding.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we passed the funding. We have to end this shutdown, and we have to secure our border. But it takes a good-faith effort on both sides to negotiate. When Speaker PELOSI says she offered \$1 toward the physical barrier, she is not negotiating in good faith.

It is very sad, because I am concerned about those people who work for us in this government who are not receiving a paycheck. Everybody who is speaking on this floor tonight is. But they are also concerned about the pictures that we see here and the problems that we see.

In this House last year, we worked on legislation dealing with the opioid crisis, but our largest supplier of opioids is at that southern border. Over 90 percent of the opioids and heroin that comes in and that kills the people of the United States is coming across because we don't have the ability to secure that border with a physical barrier.

There is one difference right now between when NANCY PELOSI and CHUCK SCHUMER supported a barrier along that border. The only difference is who is sitting in the White House. You can like him; you can hate him; but the reality is this issue is not about him. It is about the citizens of this United States. It is about what is doing right by the citizens that send us here. To watch political football being played in this House and watch what occurs is simply mind-boggling.

I had a town hall meeting the other night, and we let both those for and those against speak and ask questions. By the time it was said and done, over 66 percent of the people I was talking to believed that we must secure this border with a physical barrier.

Plain and simple, let's stop playing politics, and let's fund the government and our border. We can do both. The people of America need to know and understand that, because I know my

colleagues who are speaking here tonight do understand it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is right. We can do both. We are all committed to doing that. That is why we are here. We are working for the American public, and I believe we will get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague and good friend from Alabama, MARTHA ROBY.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and my friend as well for holding this Special Order tonight. I agree with the comments my colleagues have made here on the floor this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to underscore the severity of the situation at our southern border. We are in the midst of a real crisis, and we must act now.

According to Homeland Security, in the last 2 months, our Border Patrol has apprehended roughly 140,000 illegal immigrants at the southern border. This is an increase of 86 percent over the same period last year. Additionally, there were more than 25,000 families apprehended last November. This is the highest monthly number ever recorded by Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, here in Congress, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are talking about this issue as though it is something new. This is not a new issue. For the past decade, the people who I represent in southeast Alabama have consistently expressed to me their frustrations with our country's illegal immigration problem.

I believe now is the time that we must use every tool available to enhance border security. And we must do it now. We cannot wait another decade.

I really appreciate the gentlewoman taking this time, her leadership on this issue tonight, and her giving me the opportunity to speak.

□ 1745

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you for coming and sharing. You made so many great points. And just the sheer number of people who are coming across, we just say those numbers, but I heard the other day, it is like 2,000 a day.

In my district—I have a very rural district—there are a lot of towns that don't have 2,000 people in them. So if I picture one of my towns that has 2,000 people in it, that is how many that are coming across every day, the southern border, 2,000 people a day.

We have just got to address this. I agree with you, we have got to do it now. And thank you so much for coming.

I would like to now yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, Representative DUNCAN, my good friend, to come here and share his thoughts from South Carolina and why he thinks this is a real crisis, and then why we need to deal with it right now.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, first off, let me thank the gentlewoman for hav-

ing this Special Order on a very, very important issue.

South Carolina is as far away from the Texas border, the southern border, as almost any State. We do have an international border with the port of Charleston. We have airports there. But on Tuesday, the President carefully explained the reality on our southern border.

Plain and simple, we have a real and tangible national security crisis on our hands with illegal immigration, drug smuggling, human smuggling, sex trafficking, and terrorist threats, terrorists attempting to infiltrate our country through our poorest and unsafe southern border. These are people who aren't from Central or South America. There have been people of all nationalities apprehended on our southern border.

The President should be applauded for looking at every angle and every out-of-the-box idea to answer his constitutional duty to the American people to secure our Nation. This is about national security. It is not just about illegal immigrants wanting to come into our country to work and provide for their family; this is about national security.

We all know we have an epidemic drug problem in this country, and the majority of the drugs are coming across our southern border. Sex trafficking and human trafficking, in general, are immense in our southern border region.

And we do know that the Quds Force, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Special Elite Forces, the Quds Force, have tried to come across our southern border, apprehended and thwarted by an undercover DEA agent on the Mexican side of the border that stopped that. That Quds Force operative wanted to come to this city, wanted to come to Washington, D.C., to assassinate the Ambassador from Saudi Arabia at a restaurant where a Member of this body could have been eating.

The threat of terrorism is real. The illegality and illegal activities happening on our southern border are real. It is what the people want. It is what they expect from the Commander-in-Chief, to make sure that our Nation is safe. They want a true leader, a problem-solver. President Trump has proven that he is a problem-solver in private business, and he is applying that as Commander-in-Chief.

Congressional Democrats have been unwilling to secure the border, even though a lot of them voted for the 2006 Secure Fence Act, but they failed to fund it. So the show vote, if you look at their rhetoric, they believed in securing the border. Now it is time to put the money there to truly do it.

Seventy-nine Senators voted for that as well, the 2006 Secure Fence Act. And because of Democrats' unwillingness to fulfill their constitutional Article I duties, the government remains partially shut down.

This isn't politics. This is national security. It is time to build the wall,

secure our border, stop the illegal activities, a national security issue to protect us and our fellow citizens. We owe it to the American citizens to step up and secure this Nation.

I applaud the President and I applaud Mrs. HARTZLER for having this Special Order and giving us Members a chance to voice our support for what is going on with the administration trying to secure this country.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said. Well said. I thank the gentleman; that was great.

Now, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Representative BRIAN BABIN. He is right there at the border. So what does the gentleman have to say?

Mr. BABIN. I was at the border this past weekend.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Really?

Mr. BABIN. I certainly was.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from the 36th District of Texas, I made a promise to my constituents and the American people to secure the southern border, and I intend to keep my promise.

The last 2 months alone, Border Patrol agents have apprehended roughly 140,000 illegal aliens on the southwest border, which is a staggering 86 percent increase from this time last year alone. Without question, funding to build the wall is crucial, and now is our chance.

In December of 2018, Border Patrol agents apprehended more than 27,000 members of family units, the highest monthly total on record, a number which has been on a steady incline for months. I have seen this with my own eyes.

Mr. Speaker, last month, I joined my Republican colleagues here in the House and voted to fully fund the government and secure money for the border wall. Regrettably, the Democrats blocked this commonsense legislation and are now unwilling to negotiate with us or the President.

The crisis at our southern border is a dire national security and humanitarian concern, and a solution must not be delayed any longer. The border encompasses approximately 2,000 miles; but with too many of those miles left open, we are hurting our border States, and, quite frankly, the entire Nation is put at risk. It is past time for the Democrats to come to the table with a serious offer so that we can move forward toward meaningful border security.

Simply put, we have very little idea who is coming across the border, what their intentions are, and we have to get a handle on this. Criminal organizations, cartels, and others who wish to harm us are easily entering our country undetected.

Indeed, 500 Texans have died at the hands of illegal criminals in Texas alone. And Houston, which I represent part of, is the number one port of entry for sex trafficking in the United States, a very dubious, indeed, record there.

I am willing to fight for this, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), for the time.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from North Carolina, Representative ROUZER, to share.

And while he is coming, I just want to thank the gentleman from Texas for sharing that. That is just heart-breaking that 500,000 Texans were killed at the hands of illegal aliens. But we can fix that.

So I thank Representative ROUZER for being here. What does the gentleman have to say tonight about this?

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for leading this Special Order and her great leadership in so many respects and, particularly, in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question about it. Our Nation is in the midst of a humanitarian and national security crisis at our southern border, one that is growing by the day, and its impact is far-reaching.

Unfortunately, many of these illegal aliens are very dangerous individuals with criminal records, members of gangs, and others coming for nefarious purposes who are exploiting the loopholes and current immigration laws. This has led to an increase in human trafficking and a lethal spike in drug trafficking that is striking rural and urban communities, alike, all across this great land.

During the past 2 years, ICE officers made 266,000 arrests of aliens with criminal records, including those charged or convicted of 100,000 assaults and nearly 30,000 sex crimes.

Data shows that 31 percent of women and nearly 17 percent of men are sexually assaulted en route to the border. The situation is so bad that nearly 70 percent of migrants are victims of some form of violence during their travel.

Now, let's talk about the drugs.

Heroin and fentanyl are hitting rural and urban America in epidemic proportions. Just this past year, there was a 73 percent increase of fentanyl and 22 percent increase in heroin brought across the southern border. In fact, approximately 90 percent of the heroin brought into this country is smuggled across.

According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2017 alone, more than 70,000 lives were lost due to drug overdoses. They published this just this past December 18, more than 70,000 lives.

The drugs coming in across the border are destroying lives, separating families, and robbing this country of great talent that is so badly needed. Almost every business owner I talked to tells me what a hard time they have trying to find workers because, in so many cases, they can't pass a drug test.

My home State of North Carolina also suffers greatly from the prevalence of human trafficking. In so many cases, this, too, starts at the southern border.

Here is the bottom line: Criminal organizations and others are utilizing illegal immigration as a way to make billions in profit and cause harm to countless victims in the process. A barrier in the right places makes a lot of common sense. The President is asking for a little more than 230-some square miles of steel barrier out of almost 2,000 miles of border. This shouldn't even be a debate. Give me a break.

Mr. Speaker, this is a crisis that requires bipartisan action. I applaud President Trump and his commitment to securing the border, and I am proud to stand with him until it is done.

I urge our Democratic colleagues to come to the table. This is a negotiation. This is a process. Come to the table and let's work it out, and let's do what is right for the American people.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the conversation that we have had tonight, sharing with the American people the facts and the stories of some people in our district about why this is so important.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

#### FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Porter) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to describe the enduring financial challenges that families are experiencing because of the President's government shutdown.

I know how terrifying it is when your livelihood is suddenly taken away. I grew up during the 1980s farm crisis and watched as my neighborhood bank closed. Everyone in my town felt a real sense of panic and of loss.

Farmers were being foreclosed on and losing farms that had been in their family for generations. There were sui-

cides and the kind of social pain and personal pain that comes with economic hardship. While the town eventually recovered, the people and the community were changed forever.

I understand how devastating a financial crisis can be, and I understand how one missed paycheck can spiral. I know this from my own childhood during the farm crisis and from the nearly two decades I have spent studying families on the brink of bankruptcy.

Federal workers are now questioning whether working for the Federal Government is a stable paycheck. They are wondering if their family, if their kids can count on this administration. Families are wondering how long they can afford to wait for the shutdown to end, and they are having hard discussions at the dinner table about whether to leave the Federal workforce in search for a new job.

Tomorrow, 800,000 Federal workers and their families will miss paychecks, plunging employees into uncertainty. About 42,000 of those Federal workers are in my home State of California. More than 5,000 of these unpaid workers live in my district, and many of them are hurting.

With each missed paycheck comes missed payments on bills and missed payments on loans. Families will be hit with late fees and interest, often in the double or even triple digits.

Despite having no paycheck, Federal workers still have urgent expenses—prescription drugs, gas, childcare, groceries—and those who are still required to report for work incur costs to get to and from their workplaces.

This past spring, the Federal Reserve found that 40 percent of Americans don't have the cash to pay for an unexpected \$400 expense without having to sell a belonging or borrowing money. Those families also don't have the cash to go without paychecks.

Families may feel forced to consider taking out a payday loan to get quick cash to meet their expenses. In the past 2 years, more than 10 percent of Americans have gone to a payday lender, even though the interest rates are incredibly high and the national average is almost 400 percent interest. In California, the average rate is 460 percent.

□ 1800

In Virginia, where even a larger percentage of Federal workers live, the average payday loan is over 600 percent.

For workers living paycheck to paycheck, the shutdown and its missed paychecks can easily spiral into bankruptcy. Even if we provide Federal workers with backpay, which we should, it will not make those hurt by this shutdown whole.

When the government reopens, it won't be able to help Federal workers who incur late fees or hits on credit reports during the shutdown. It won't pay interest on new loans taken out by Federal workers.

One of my constituents in California's 45th Congressional District, Aubrey, told me that her family has filed paperwork to borrow against their 401(k) retirement. Borrowing against that 401(k) will come with large tax penalties, but she is part of a single-income household living on a Federal Government wage. She and her wife and their kids rely on a steady paycheck, and they are understandably concerned about the impact that the shutdown will have on their family.

Another constituent in my district, Melinda, told me that she has been working for a government agency for over 30 years. She is debating taking out a loan. She is researching whether she can file for unemployment. She loves her job and wants to go to work but is prohibited from doing so. She just paid the tuition for one of her kids to go to college, and she does not have the means to live without a paycheck.

This shutdown is a disaster for Federal workers who aren't getting paid, and it is a disaster for working families who deserve to get the tax refunds they are owed.

Right now, families are denied tax refunds because of the government shutdown. Yesterday, my colleagues, Democrats, voted to reopen the Treasury Department, the IRS, and the Small Business Administration, and we were joined by several Republicans, but this administration won't even consider opening up the Treasury.

Now this administration has said the IRS will service tax refunds even with the government shutdown, but before this announcement, the IRS was operating with a barebones staff. Only one out of every eight employees was in that office, and that has made it so much harder for Americans to prepare their tax returns.

As we start filing for tax returns, American people need certainty from their government, not the chaos of a shutdown. And since this is the first year that the Republican tax law raised taxes for Orange County families, it is even more important that taxpayers get the refunds and the tax help that they deserve.

As a professor of bankruptcy law, I also know that many families who struggle with overwhelming debt, often from unexpected medical bills, wait until this time of year to file for bankruptcy. That is because they have to use their own tax refunds to pay their attorney or filing fees.

If the IRS does not get these families the refunds they are owed, they won't be able to get help in bankruptcy from their overwhelming debts or catch up on loan payments. And without the money to file for bankruptcy, families can lose parts of their paychecks to wage garnishment, squeezing families in this country even tighter.

It is past time that we reopen the government. This is day 20 of the shutdown. This administration is recklessly hurting Federal families and workers who are counting on basic government

services, including getting their own hard-earned money back from the IRS, and even backpay for these workers will not erase the harm of this shutdown.

Those families will still have \$30 late fees on credit card payments. They will still have to pay interest on their mortgages that could run into hundreds of dollars. If they are 2 weeks late in paying their credit card bills or mortgage payments, they can be hit with negative credit reporting, which can drop their credit scores, and those negative reports stay on their records for up to 7 years.

Simply reopening the government won't make these families whole, but it is a necessary start. That is why I am sending letters to the leading banks and credit card companies asking them to offer relief to families. These letters ask the banks and credit card companies to waive fees, to pause debt repayment timelines, to freeze eviction and foreclosure proceedings until 2 weeks after our Federal workers receive their next paycheck. They should also freeze the reporting of negative information to credit reporting agencies during this difficult time.

Many of our country's credit unions have already offered their customers such relief. For example, Orange County's Credit Union is providing furloughed workers 2 weeks of pay, up to \$5,000, at 0 percent interest for 60 days, and they are offering these furloughed workers 90-day waivers on payments for existing loans.

Another credit union in my district, Kinecta Federal Credit Union, is offering unpaid workers \$2,000 at 0 percent for 12 months. That 12-month loan period recognizes how long it will take unpaid workers to right themselves from the harm of this missed paycheck.

These efforts by these credit unions will go a long way to mitigating the real consequences of this shutdown for American families, and I hope other financial institutions and lenders join and engage in similar efforts.

President Trump has the power to reopen the government and stop hurting families, especially unpaid workers. Orange County, California, and this Nation deserve a government at work.

I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against drunk driving, a senseless, unacceptable, and preventable act. I uplift my dear friends, the Abbas family, who lost their lives tragically due to the fault of a drunk driver. They were kind. They were loving.

According to the CDC, alcohol-impaired fatalities accounted for 29 percent of the total vehicle traffic accidents in 2017. I honor their memory today by supporting my colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, in her proposal to expand the use of breathalyzers in new vehicles.

This doesn't change the fact that someone got drunk and got behind the wheel of a car, and, as a result, we lost

five bright lights in Michigan: Issam Abbas, Dr. Rima Abbas, and their three children, Ali, Isabelle, and Giselle.

I want to repeat a quote by Helen Keller: "What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us."

Let us honor the memory and the lives of the Abbas family and pray for the comfort of their surviving family.

In regards to the shutdown, Mr. Speaker, I would like to help my colleagues understand the human toll on our residents and thousands of Federal workers across the Nation. It is now day 20.

Today, over 400 housing units across my district, the 13th Congressional District, are directly impacted by the HUD funding expiring due to the government shutdown. HUD is begging landlords to not evict our residents due to the lack of payment.

HUD provides affordable rent for over 40,000 low-income families across this Nation. We are talking about residents who are disabled, children, seniors, and veterans who are living with challenges that require assistance to live.

Mr. Speaker, again, going on day 20, we are creating a humanitarian crisis. In Detroit, Michigan, there are nearly 1,000 families affected by this current situation. The number is sure to rise as the shutdown continues.

Another area of the shutdown that we cannot stress enough is the amount of workers who do not know when they will receive their next paycheck. In Michigan alone, we have 6,000 workers, mostly in southeastern Michigan, and now they are scrambling to figure out how they will pay for their shelter and food for their family.

In Wayne County, Michigan, Federal workers are being given an extension to pay their property taxes. The shutdown is causing a disruption in their lives and so many that are connected. The bills will continue to come, Mr. Speaker. The late fines and interest fees will pile up while the administration plays games with the lives of the American people.

Government must be about people first. The continued denial that the real crisis is the shutdown will cause a detrimental impact on our residents. The cost to reopen government will continue to increase. We deserve better. We deserve our President to lead with compassion.

It is critical that we put a human face to this crisis so that we understand the real impact on everyday people.

The U.S. Coast Guard employees in Michigan today are at risk of missing their next paycheck. They are currently working around the clock on the Great Lakes breaking ice to keep our shipping and logistics industries going. They are providing a critical role in our regional economy and security without knowing whether they will get paid.

Our Coast Guard even rescued a man from Lake Michigan, an honorable action, but let's thank them by paying



them so they can take care of their families.

Jasmine, a worker that has been with the TSA for nearly 16 years, has already been unable to cover her bills and had to turn to her own mother for financial help. She said that they are doing their job to the best of their ability and feel that they are being treated as pawns in something they have no control over.

She is right, Mr. Speaker. She and her fellow workers are wondering how they are going to pay for gas and feed their children.

I know I am a new Member here, but the disconnect of many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the current administration, it has been felt here and also back home. I see it. It is toxic, and it will never serve the American people. The disconnection with real people will continue to deny the right for our citizens to live with human dignity.

I have vital EPA workers that monitor air pollution in my district that have been off duty for weeks now. One in five children has asthma in my district, Mr. Speaker. This is unjust. We need to have a functional and open government that protects us. We have some of the worst corporate polluters in the country in the 13th Congressional District, and now we have no one protecting us from air pollution violators. Let's get them back to work for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a handful of examples of Americans that are being harmed by the actions of this administration and the inaction of the Senate. We must end this shutdown now. Our residents deserve us to lead with compassion and responsibility.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the great State of California, Mike Levin.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, when the people of California's 49th District elected me to represent them in Congress, I did not imagine that I would be sworn in during a partial government shutdown. However, on the same day that I raised my right hand and took the oath of office, I also cast my first votes to fund Federal agencies that have been shut down by President Trump.

We have since voted on several similar bills, including earlier today. The bills we voted on were not controversial. In fact, they were the same exact bills that Senate Republicans supported just 1 month ago, and they have received bipartisan support here in the House. In fact, just today, 12 Republicans voted to fund and reopen Transportation and HUD, and 10 voted to reopen Agriculture and the SNAP program.

One-third of the Federal workforce is comprised of veterans. The shutdown is hurting their credit rating and that of all Federal employees. How can President Trump claim to care about veterans while allowing this to continue?

For those in my district back home who are impacted, I hear your voices. I

have heard the voice of the Fish and Wildlife Service employee in my district who told me the other day that many of her colleagues are living paycheck to paycheck and can't afford to go any longer without the pay that they have earned and that they deserve.

I have heard the grocery store owner in my district who can't get help with his food stamp eligibility because the appropriate USDA office is shut down.

The Trump shutdown is hurting people in my district and every district who have done nothing but worked hard and played by the rules.

We can end this today by reopening the government while we continue to debate border security. And make no mistake, we need smart, effective, and humane border security, but we do not need 5th century technology for a 21st century problem.

I strongly urge Leader MCCONNELL to bring up the bipartisan funding bills for a vote in the Senate, and I urge President Trump to do the right thing and sign them.

Mr. Speaker, 20 days is far too long. The American people have had enough. Let's end this senseless shutdown, and let's end it now.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 43 minutes remaining.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague.

□ 1815

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished Congresswoman from California, for her leadership and her amazing journey here to the United States House of Representatives. It is clearly because of life stories like hers that we will be more effective in representing all of the American people, so I thank her for leading the Congressional Progressive Caucus this evening and really speaking to our colleagues and, yes, the American people.

I know that the number 20 has many meanings. For 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds, you give them 20 pennies for their piggy bank and you can see their sparkling eyes, just really happy.

You can count down 20 days till your vacation. It is reasonable. You can get ready, get new clothes and new suitcases.

You may be able to count down if you are suffering from an illness and the doctor says that in 20 days things will be looking up.

But in this instance, I am standing alongside of this sign, "20 Days," because it represents pain and frustration. It certainly represents a sadness that is truly unnecessary, for we will approach the longest shutdown of the Federal Government, the longest abuse of power that the United States of America has ever seen.

Just a few weeks ago, we saw the President of the United States indicate that he will take ownership of a shutdown. I think it is important to take note of the fact that this is a policy dispute, a simple policy dispute that is not catastrophic.

In the meantime, we have dangerous conditions in the Nation's parks, national historic sites, and we have a shut door for the Nation's schoolchildren at our museums.

Individuals who are seeking mortgages, first-time buyers, young couples, retirees, have been stopped in their tracks.

Those brave men and women, including firefighters under the Department of the Interior who fought those terrible fires in California, will not be paid tomorrow.

My colleagues and friends in Texas, as a border State resident, will not be paid tomorrow: border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, the brave men and women that I visited with working in the Nation's airports and in my airport, the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

Mortgages and rent not paid, car payments not being paid, spring tuition checks not being paid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance not being paid. So much is riding on the fact that these individuals are working without pay because of, simply, a temper tantrum.

Now, I want information. I was down at the border just a couple of weeks ago. I go all the time. I served on the Border Security Committee on Homeland Security. I helped write a bipartisan Homeland Security border security bill.

When the Border Patrol was a small agency, we poured millions of dollars, post-9/11, to build up their personnel, give them laptops, night goggles, jeeps. I went to the border at night, in the dark of night. I saw their work. I know what they need. I know that they have their views.

Many have said: I don't care what kind of barrier it is; a concrete wall will not work, but we need a combination of things.

And so what the Commander-in-Chief will see at the border that will warrant the shutting down of government, the make-believe national crisis, I hope—and I wanted him to visit the patrol stations, the Border Patrol stations where hopeless families and children are there, some suffering, as little Felipe was, because the conditions are not there for welcoming women and children seeking asylum through the normal legal process, of which some would be granted and some will be directed to go home. That is the American way.

But yet 35,694 employees are not getting a paycheck in Texas because of this tragic condition.

So I say to the commonsense people, the Democratic majority that voted on legislation that could have simply gone to the other body, been placed on the calendar for the Senate, voted on, and

sent to the desk of the President of the United States, I would say: Mr. President, sign the bill and open the government.

Policy changes are not warranted for a shutdown. Fifty-one thousand TSA agents missing their paychecks is not defensible, and the 800,000 total employees, 16,000 NASA employees who were furloughed, and the impact on the fourth largest city in the Nation, rural home loans financed by the USDA, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Hurricane Harvey Federal aid.

I heard the pain of a Member whose Pacific Island, which he represents as a Delegate, has just suffered a massive typhoon. We need disaster aid for them.

The good news is that the Democratic leadership is doing our job. We are on the floor every day passing the bill to open the government—let me say it again—to open the government.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude on these two points:

I always believe that it is important to be truthful in one's statement. Any of us in public service should give the best evidence of the truth that we can.

Those of us who have served in the last 2 to 3 to 4 or 5 years have seen the pain of our constituents and the pain of Members of Congress who come from districts where the enormity of the opioid crisis has taken whole families. We know that there are 100-plus people dying every day from opioid abuse.

For those of us who come from inner-city communities, that was yesterday's crack and cocaine that didn't get the attention that we are getting now. But I am not selfish. I am glad, as a nation, we recognize the literal destroying of a human being and family.

So we have invested money in treatment. We have looked at the criminal justice system, and we will look even more to not penalize those who are addicted. We are trying to eliminate access to meth and some of the most poisonous drugs, now kush, and many others.

But it is shameful to use the pain of these families and to create a false narrative that I put up a wall and I will heal Johnny Smith way up in New England from his opioid disease.

Drugs, we have a war that we must finish, fight and finish. We must get people off of drugs. We must cure them. We must treat them as if they are sick.

But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, no wall is going to stop the epidemic. We must engage in diplomacy and the frustration and the poverty in South and Central America.

By the way, I have introduced a bill that says if we have a wall, concrete wall, then, as was promised by this administration, Mexico should pay for it.

But we must engage with the South and Central American countries, and any drugs that want to get into this country, you can be assured they will be coming in underground, in tunnels, well-lit tunnels, well-known pathways and legal points of entry.

How do I know? I have been at the border when a bust has been made and seen the car open and the most unique places where millions of dollars of drugs were hidden.

Thank you to the canine team that is so effective.

None of this was spoken about. The narrative was not true. The White House is not presenting to the American people what really is a national emergency. Opioid is, but the way it must be dealt with is increased access to healthcare and not the continued undermining of the Affordable Care Act.

So, finally, we have heard the President call and scream that he will declare a national emergency.

I think it is important, as it is for the Members of this great body, this great Nation, to know that we have a Constitution where Article I is the Congress and Article II is the Executive, and nowhere in those two articles does it say that the Congress has to be told what to do by the administration—nowhere. An independent body must stand for what the American people need. So there are statutes that govern the emergency declaration.

I will give it to you straight: There are two statutes that require either that there be a declaration of war—I have not heard that—or else a proper formal declaration of national emergency. They don't dictate exactly what the conditions are. It is all about process and transparency.

If, for example, the President would want to declare this a national emergency, he would have to frame it, and he would have to determine what that means. Do we want to use the Armed Forces? What kind of national emergency is it?

And do you realize that national emergency means taking money from so many vital programs? Just like the \$5.7 billion wall that, for some reason, the supporters or people listening to this narrative of the wall, they must think that we have a hidden treasure somewhere that we will just go in and dig down in the pot and get \$5.7 billion.

You take \$5.7 billion, and you will take it out of the United States military. You will take it out of the Coast Guard. You will take it out of education. You will take it out of healthcare. You will take it out of the environment. You will take it out of international diplomacy. You will take it out of those suffering from HIV/AIDS. You will take it out of the starving people around the world. That is where the money will come from.

So I hope that there will be a pathway where this body of Congress works to send the bills to the President's desk. I hope that we don't go 2 or 3 more days past this day tomorrow, when no checks will come to thousands of Americans, and get this government open.

If the President thinks he can declare a national emergency and that is the only narrative he wants to use, we will

do our job. He will do his job, but we should have, as our number one job, to open this government now and to provide the good, hardworking Americans who serve us in the Federal Government and those who are impacted by them to be able to get a check, to be able to do the things that this great Nation has allowed them to do; for we stumble, we do not realize that, in the Declaration of Independence, it indicated that we were all created equal, with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I take that to heart, what this country stands for, and we have got to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the kind words.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the gentlewoman and the Progressive Caucus for organizing this very important Special Order hour. It is an important opportunity for us to share stories about how the Trump shutdown is causing real damage in many of our communities and to remind the American people that President Trump is holding government hostage not for some noble cause, but for his petulant demand for an unnecessary and medieval border wall.

□ 1830

There are 14,000 Federal workers in New York State whose pay has been impacted by this Trump shutdown, but I will share the story of one of my constituents.

This is the reality of a constituent from the 13th Congressional District, someone I have the privilege to represent and know. That person is a NASA employee who, along with dozens of her colleagues, has been furloughed due to the Trump shutdown.

Most Americans are unaware that NASA operates and conducts some of the most important climate change research in New York City through NASA labs right in the heart of New York City.

My constituent's work is even more critical now than ever before, as our global climate is in its most fragile state, with record-shattering hurricanes pounding the Caribbean. We saw how Hurricane Maria ravaged through the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and the Gulf Coast of our country, as well as the massive wildfires burning throughout California and other parts of the West Coast.

My constituent and her fellow workers, dedicated researchers, conduct observational-based climate assessment. Now, because of the Trump shutdown, these crucial studies will stop.

The intensive models they build explain past climate behavior and help us predict future climate conditions so we can be better prepared in the future.

This is not surprising, Mr. Speaker, because many of the folks around the

White House believe that climate change is a hoax, that it doesn't exist at all.

These researchers that have been furloughed are so necessary for the future of our Nation and our planet. Their periodic reports are essential for understanding our climate and how it is changing.

In a response from agencies that seems almost like a cruel joke, furloughed Federal workers, like my constituent, have been encouraged to get creative, to budget closely. They have been asked that perhaps they could make ends meet if they baby-sit or if they have garage sales.

This is the message that these agencies have given to some of the furloughed workers across the country, but too many in our Federal workforce simply cannot afford to miss a loan payment, a utility bill, their rent, their mortgage.

This President simply doesn't understand just how hard it is for working class people and middle class people. As Speaker PELOSI aptly put it, President Trump doesn't understand that working people cannot ask their dad or their mom for money.

This whole situation is unacceptable. And just like President Trump said when he accepted the Republican nomination back in 2016, he alone can fix this. He created this crisis.

I bring this here to show the American people who is crossing the border. I went down to the border in New Mexico, and I saw moms and little children running away from violence, from hunger, running away from natural disasters, sleeping on a cold, dirty, dingy floor, packed like sardines.

We are a better country. We are a better America.

We ask you, Mr. President: Give up your wall. Give up your wall and reopen government. Free the 800,000 Federal workers you have held hostage in this manufactured, fictitious security crisis.

This is the moment, this is the time. Mr. Speaker, we must fight back, we must reopen government. We will not give in to the wall.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here tonight.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was just on the floor, but I could not leave the floor without reminding us that our constituents have names.

So I wanted Edith to know how concerned I am about her, and to say that when I spoke about the 20 days and the 20 pennies, all of that is, if you will, things that are static, but a human being who has to deal with life's ups and downs is real.

Edith Banda—recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East—is among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her Federal job in downtown Houston, which is where my congressional office is, since the shutdown 17 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek private sector work, because such jobs require permission, and the people who process these requests have been furloughed; just like some are trying to get unemployment, and some of the documentation they need are with people who are furloughed.

Edith has been selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

Now, I know our Speaker has indicated that we are working very hard here to get access to credit through credit unions and no-interest loans. We have letters that they can send.

I want to personally say that my office is open. 713-655-0050 is my local office. My staff, get ready, in case we can be of help to you down in Houston to be able to see what we can do about your circumstances.

Finally, I just want to say that Carol has been a Federal employee for over 25 years. She is waiting to find out when she will be allowed to return to work. She has been furloughed.

After reflecting on her two daughters enrolled in college and her fears of no longer being able to help them with their education expenses, she wrote about how the Trump shutdown was hurting her. And like many employees, she has a mortgage, credit card payments, Federal student loans, and she is trying to be a mother.

And I would just say this as I close, that she has got to deal with late fees, interest rate hikes and damage to her credit score, and so she is one of those individuals.

I just want to say that the metaphor, the narrative, again, of so many people having gates to their homes, and to use that when these people are pouring out their life savings, they are pouring their heart out, they are in distress, I have a very diverse district, and I can assure you I can travel around and see very few gated communities of all economic levels. And they love their family. They have a door, but they are moving around the community.

This is a great Nation. That is a poor example, that we have gated communities because we love the people that are in or not, because we don't like the people who are out.

It is because you have a dislike for the people who are out. That must be your lack of understanding of all of our humanity, because for those of us at Homeland Security who have been to the northern border as well, there is not one fence there and not one person that wants a fence. And we know what happened in 2000 when a person came across to do harm to the United States.

We can find a better solution. Let's stop using the narrative, because I think many Americans live in circumstances where they see their neighbors, they interact with their neighbors, and they don't have locked gates and walls. Some do. That is their choice. But that is not the definition of who we are.

So I want to say to Edith and to Carol and others, Democrats are here working as hard as we can. Congresswoman PORTER is working as hard as she can. And we will be back on the floor again tomorrow.

I am just hoping that the Senate, the other body, can take up our bills. Once they do that, it is very clear that they can go right to the President. If it sits for 10 days, it is law.

I feel that if it is vetoed, I really feel that the good people of this House and Senate will override it and get these people back where they need to be.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding so I could tell Edith and Carol's story.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in discussing the Trump Shutdown and its devastating impact on the financial security of federal families and contractors.

As the Trump Shutdown enters its third week, the effects of President Trump and Republicans' reckless decision to shutter the government over a wasteful and unnecessary border wall are obvious.

Frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22.

This includes around 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 47,000 Transportation Security Officers and 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

TSA employees received their last paycheck on December 28, giving them money that would typically last through the next pay period but which will now have to stretch much further.

The shutdown has already forced some employees to look for new jobs or take on extra work, and the pressure is immense for employees and families with no other source of income.

This also includes 3,200 Secret Service agents who risk their lives every single day to protect President Trump and his family.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

These are real American families that are being put through an unwarranted and unnecessary shutdown and are suffering because of it.

With many federal employees being furloughed, and those deemed essential being expected to work without pay American families are now stuck wondering how they are going to get by without an income, especially since things like rent, groceries, and general day-to-day living costs still need to be paid whether the government is fully functional or not.

The Trump Shutdown will end when the President comes to his senses.

Not only are Americans struggling to pay for their day-to-day expenses but veterans and military families are suffering as well.

If the shutdown lasts for more than two or three weeks, the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that it may not have enough money to pay disability claims and pension payments.

That could affect approximately 3.6 million veterans.

For military families, although their pay has continued, the military is suffering in other areas.

For example, changes of station for military personnel will be delayed, medical offerings could be scaled back, and facility and weapons maintenance could be suspended.

Additionally, military commissaries (base grocery stores) have shut down and military families are being forced to shop elsewhere.

According to the Defense Commissary Agency, military families generally save more than 30 percent on average at the commissaries.

Shopping off the base can be pricey, especially for military families living in cities with a high cost of living.

Edith Banda who recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East is among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her federal job in downtown Houston since the shutdown 17 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

Edith has begun selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

There are so many other issues that we could tackle with the money Trump wants to spend on the wall.

With an increase of \$265 million the Department of Justice could hire 2,000 new police officers and make steps towards making many communities a safer place.

With increase of \$99 million the Office of National Drug Control Policy could support community-level efforts to address substance abuse programs in nearly 730 additional communities.

Economic Development Administration with an increase of \$200 million could create or preserve 31,000 jobs for our hardworking Americans.

Small Business Administration grants with an additional \$20 million could support dozens more Women's Business and Veterans Outreach Centers providing business training, counseling and outreach to 47,000 additional US veterans and women.

These are the changes that American citizens deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the President ends this government shutdown and end the unwarranted suffering of American families across the nation.

Carol with the Bureau of Land Management wrote to me sharing her frustrations and anxiety over the Trump Shutdown.

Carol has been a federal employee for over 25 years. She is waiting to find out when she will be allowed to return to work. Carol is one

of 800,000 federal government employees living with constant worry and angst. Hearing that President Trump is willing to keep her and many others furloughed for years has her questioning her career choice.

After reflecting on her two daughters enrolled in college and her fears of no longer being able to help them with their education expenses did she write about how Trump's Shutdown will hurt her.

She, like many other federal employees, has a mortgage, has credit card payments, has federal student loans. The places where she would look for assistance are closed, leaving her to attempt to navigate and negotiate late fees, interest rate hikes, and damage to her credit score that inevitable missed payments will create.

Carol is just one of the 800,000 federal government employees who will not be receiving a paycheck tomorrow.

The President should be ashamed.

Prior to Trump's election the nation heard about his history of refusing to pay contractors for work they had completed. The United States Federal Government does not and will not conduct business in this way. The United State Government pays its workers.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much. I appreciate her sharing their stories and adding the stories of Edith and Carol to those that I shared of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I think this really shows that the harms of the shutdown are being felt in communities around the country, including from her home State in Texas and mine in California.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an end to the Trump shutdown. This Republican-imposed shutdown is threatening job creation, harming small businesses and leaving families with uncertainty and instability.

It is shameful that President Trump and Congressional Republicans are so desperate to secure taxpayer funding for a senseless border wall that they're willing to harm hardworking Americans by shutting down the federal government.

This outrageous shutdown is forcing 420,000 federal employees to work without pay. These dedicated public servants have been doing their jobs and serving the public without pay since December 22. They include about 14,000 FBI agents, 6,000 Forest Service firefighters, and 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents. Furthermore, thousands of airport security screeners and air traffic controllers are working without pay to protect the safety of the flying public at airports throughout the country, including LAX in my congressional district.

In addition, 400,000 federal employees have been furloughed without pay. This includes federal workers at the Departments of Transportation, State, Commerce, Interior and Agriculture.

These dedicated public servants are sitting at home wondering how they will pay their mortgages and buy food for their families. Yet, they want nothing more than to go back to work serving the American people.

As the Chair of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am especially concerned about the impact of the Trump Shutdown on American homebuyers and renters. Millions of

families that rely on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) rental assistance programs are dangerously close to eviction and foreclosure due to lapses in funding. Families aspiring to become homeowners may see their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or rural housing loans delayed or be unable to close on their loans altogether during the shutdown. In rural communities, very low-income, elderly homeowners who rely on HUD grants and loans to address health and safety hazards will not receive payments and may be forced to live in dangerous conditions.

In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the agency that investors and the public rely on to police Wall Street and maintain the safety of our capital markets system has furloughed roughly 94% of its staff, leading to a backlog of complaints that could delay enforcement actions. Companies looking to go public and enter the stock market for the first time may also have to delay their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

Meanwhile, our National Parks are overflowing with uncollected trash, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stopped conducting inspections of drinking water systems, hazardous waste facilities, and chemical facilities.

If the Trump shutdown continues beyond January, about 40 percent of 40 million individuals and families across the country who are dependent upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps, will see their benefits reduced.

These are just a few examples of the harm being caused by the third shutdown this nation has experienced since Trump took office. It is time for Republicans to stop jeopardizing livelihoods, the financial system, and our economy by ending this shutdown immediately.

It's long past time to end this Trump shutdown, and put America's public servants back to work serving the public.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 24. An act to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

#### OUR GREATEST DIFFICULTY AS A SOCIETY IS DEMOGRAPHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those opportunities, now that we have the new session of Congress up and running, to come up here and sort of walk through some of the math and the reality.

And, look, it is always fascinating when we hear, you know, the discussion of, well, there is \$5 billion for security and the barriers, but I just want

to say to everyone, before we sort of go into the presentation of the actual math of what is going on in our society, you do realize the total amount that is being discussed as the plus-up for the border security is less than we borrow in 2 days. It is less than 2 days of borrowing.

I mean, we live in this world of absurdity where the politics actually have outstripped sort of the reality and the math.

And, look, I accept that there is part of our society that so desperately doesn't want the White House to ever get any of its priorities, they will burn the place down, but come on.

Being from a border State, you know, come and see the fentanyl, the heroin, the human exploitation that is happening not only across the country, but particularly for those of us that are from border States.

But that isn't why I have reserved tonight's time. I actually want to make sure that once we get beyond this partial shutdown and we maybe get back to the business of governing, we actually start to have some understanding of the reality of what our society is up against.

In the first chart I have brought I am going to try to make an argument that our greatest difficulty we have as a society, as a country, is actually demographics. This is something we often don't talk about, because it is not something we really can do a lot about, but the reality of it is, as a society, we are getting older very fast.

There was an article just last week saying we are growing older the fastest in 80 years. You have seen the crash in our birth rates. I mean, you do realize that our birth rates are nowhere near what we call replacement rates as a society. We are down to, what is it? What do they say? 1.76 births, when you need to be up around 2.1 just for population stability.

What does that actually mean? Well, we are going to walk through a number of these boards and start to understand what that fiscal impact means if you want to keep our society's promises on things such as Social Security, Medicare, and how we deal with it.

I actually want to give sort of an optimistic idea. We believe we have sort of a five-point idea, but it is going to require my brothers and sisters on the left, my friends on the right, and people in between to pull out their calculators and think.

The fact of the matter is I often feel like I work in a math-free zone.

Just a bit of trivia. In 11 years, you and your partner, so two people, will be supporting one retiree. In 11 years, two workers for every one person in retirement. Think about that.

No matter what you think about politics and who pays and who doesn't pay, just think about that structurally as a society: two workers for every one person in retirement, and that happens in 11 years.

□ 1845

It is hard to talk about because, let's face it, we are Members of Congress. We often like talking about the shiny object, the thing that when we walk out these doors, the reporter is going to stick the microphone in our face, and it is going to be the shiny object of the day instead of the structural reality of what threatens our Republic.

The first slide here, all I want to be absorbed is this is 1965, a long time ago, 50-some years.

Do you see the red? That is what we call mandatory spending. Those are things that are on autopilot.

The most elegant way I think to describe that is that you have Social Security and Medicare. Those are earned entitlements. You worked a certain number of quarters; you paid in; and you get those benefits.

There are other entitlements that fall under this. If you are part of a certain Tribal population, we have a treaty obligation. Or if you fall under a certain income, you get these benefits. But they are mandatory. They are built into the base. We don't vote on them. They are on autopilot.

In last year's budget, actually, well over 70 percent of all the spending was on autopilot. It is what, ultimately, is consuming the budget.

We are going to do a couple of these slides, just to try to get our heads around this. Let's swap to the next one. This is just to sort of help the break-out.

My understanding is that in this coming budget year—you need to think about this—defense spending in the 2019 cycle will basically be the same as Medicare.

How many of us, when we go home to talk to our constituents, somehow think defense is two-thirds, a third of the budget? Basically, as you start to look at the charts here, you will actually see—and these are the 2018 numbers.

As you walk through, you see the blue. We will call that the sea foam blue. That is Social Security. That is 24 percent of all our spending.

If you come over here, national defense is this rust. That is 15.

Last year, Medicare was actually a little over 14-point-something. This year, Medicare and defense are almost the same.

With our demographics—remember the baby boom, 74 million of our brothers and sisters who were born in that 18-year period who are baby boomers—the peak of the baby boom right now is about 62, 63 years old. They are just starting to move into the years where they will receive those earned benefits.

Then you come over here to Medicaid and other income programs, net interest—remember, interest is a mandatory. You have to pay it to protect the sanctity and full faith and credit of U.S. debt. You start to realize, the amount that we, as Members of Congress, actually get to work on starts being about a quarter of all the spending.

It is not driven, really, by current policy. These are previous policies. It is driven by our demographics. We are getting older very fast.

This is the slide that is the most devastating to get your head around. Yes, I have not adjusted this for inflation, so these are stagnant dollars. When you use a 30-year time window, you can deduct about a third. Eventually, I will get this slide up, and I will do the interest deduction.

But think of this: Over the next 30 years—2018 to 2048, a 30-year window—what is causing an \$84 trillion budget deficit? It is substantially interest, the shortfalls in Social Security, and the shortfalls in Medicare. The rest of the budget has about a \$16 trillion surplus in what we calculated as revenues to spending.

That is really important to get our heads around. It is fascinating that, when you show these numbers, I will get people who will protest the math. It is not Republican math; it is not Democratic math; it is just math.

The reality of it is that we have these massive, unfunded liabilities that are basically in two programs, Social Security and Medicare, and we have a moral obligation to keep our promises as a society.

So how do we get there?

The next one, I am just going to put this one up so it helps reemphasize the way this works. Think of this: From 2008 to 2028—so that 20-year window—91 percent of the increased spending in this body comes from three things: interest, the growth in Social Security, and the growth in spending in healthcare entitlements.

When you see my kind come behind these microphones, and we speak as eloquently as we can, unless we are telling the truth about the demographics, we are actually not telling the truth of what is really going on. I know it is hard. It is math with lots and lots of zeroes. But this is the reality. When you look at the charts, things like defense, nondefense discretionary, even some of what we call the other entitlements, they are substantially flat over that 20-year period.

We are getting older very fast as a society, and our birth rates as a society have collapsed. We don't have enough children right now, over the last decade, to even be at replacement rates. We are basically following the trend of the rest of the industrialized world.

You have to think that through. What does that mean for our ability to promise Americans, as they move into their senior years, that retirement security? That, I think, both Republicans and Democrats all agree we must have, but, yet, then we do everything we can to avoid the actual math.

The next slide I want to go to is to, once again, reemphasize the reality of what is happening in our society population-wise. For this next chart, I am using Arizona, because that is my home. But guess which State appears

to have the biggest fall in birth rates? Arizona.

Now, please be merciful on me. I am going to try to explain something with a lack of sort of elegant language. I have had multiple conversations with a couple of folks who make their living just fixated on demographic numbers, and they, partially, are giddy about this for one thing in society. They sort of come back and say: Look, in previous demographic modeling, we thought parts of our Hispanic populations, parts of our LDS populations, and parts of others were going to continue to have very high birth rates, and that was going to provide some population stability.

But the fact of the matter is the melting pot, apparently, is actually working in our society. In our country, the melting pot is working. One of the ways that demographers refer to it is say: Look, we are all not having children like each other. The likelihood you will have a similar education, live in the same neighborhood, and now also not have children like each other, you see it in the math.

So, on one hand, yes, the melting pot is working. That is great for our country. We are Americans. We are a diverse lot, but we are Americans.

Now we need to deal with the social entitlement problem. That is, in 11 years, if I have two workers for every one person that is retired, and my birth rates are continuing to fall, how do you make the math work? How do you keep your promises?

Remember my first quip when first coming up to the podium: We are having this dispute over an additional \$5 billion of border security and the effects that has on humanitarian aid. But the absurdity is that it is less than 2 days of borrowing right now, and almost all that borrowing is driven by—you saw it on the previous slide—our allocation to cover our interest costs, Social Security, and the healthcare entitlements, where almost all the spending growth is.

This is a reality, but it is fascinating. The beginning of this is 2000. In 2000, we were basically about 3.1 in birth rates. Fertility rates have collapsed. When you actually start to do the mean nationwide, we are now down to—what is it?—1.67.

We need to actually couple that in with the massive unfunded liabilities we have and start to understand that the greatest threat to our country right now is massive entitlement promises and the lack of resources to cover them.

I have done it before, and I am going to do this about every week. I am going to bring in different boards. I have a series of boards that show almost every idea that gets quipped out of: “Well, we will raise tax rates to this, or we will do this.” None of them come anywhere close to actually covering the scale of our obligations.

Right now, I want to do one or two things that I actually believe are opti-

mistic. I am going to give you sort of a five-point idea. This is something I have been talking about in Arizona and partially around the country and other places. I need us to think about, okay, this is the math reality. We have these massive unfunded liabilities that are basically driven by two programs and our interest obligations. How do we fix it?

Let’s actually walk through a list and understand it. I call this the unified theory because we have to do all of them. We have to do all of them at the same time, and we have to fixate on the growth aspects they all bring.

The first one I want to talk about is immigration. As we go through, partially, the political theater, as this body has been doing with regard to immigration, let’s actually take a step backward and say: What immigration policy maximizes economic growth for the country so that growth helps us pay our promises, so people will receive their Social Security and Medicare?

We will have to move to a talent-based immigration system, because, as the rest of the world has done, whether it be New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, or Australia, the rest of the world has basically moved to a talent-based system because they figured out it maximizes economic growth.

In our case, hopefully, we would move to a substantially talent-based system. You still are going to have compassion. There will still be types of visas for our brothers and sisters around the world that meet our standards of compassion. But with that, I believe, you also are going to have to put in math shock absorbers that deal with the fact that we are going through a cycle right now with birth rates falling. Would you adjust certain portions of that talent-based immigration population to deal with something we call population stability for the future?

Remember, this is about maximizing economic growth, so we can keep our promises as a society.

The slide I have next to me is sort of as we deal with the next couple issues. So I believe a major reform in the immigration system can maximize economic expansion.

The next thing is a fixation on growth. When we did tax reform, as we get together and start to realize this supercomputer we carry in our pocket, oddly enough, could be the greatest regulator in our society because it can crowd source information. I have done presentations on this in the past.

Instead of building bureaucratic models, where we make people fill out lots of pieces of paper and shove them in file cabinets, how about moving to a modern system?

As a simple example, how many of you use Waze as a way you drove to your office, or to work, or to pick up the kids? That is a crowd source model that gives you information.

It turns out that same concept can actually be a way to regulate air quality and know that we are safe without

building a bureaucratic model. It can be so many things.

We need to fixate on what maximizes economic growth in our society, and that is Tax Code; that is regulatory code; that is removing barriers, removing the barriers at the State, local, and Federal level that encourage risk-taking entrepreneurship, the things that create the economic disruptions, so we grow.

□ 1900

The third thing, and that is what that chart is about, we call it labor force participation. We got the report last week that was actually in some ways wonderful and in some ways it is heartbreaking.

We are giddy that we broke 63 percent labor force participation. We hit 63.1. I can show you a stack of articles from the last decade from really smart economists, mostly on the left side. They said we are never going to get back to 63 percent labor force participation because we are getting older as a society, we have so many worn-out workers, or whatever the current pop cultural term is.

Well, we broke through 63.1 last month in December. But understand, it was only a decade ago we were pushing around 67 percent labor force participation. What does that mean? It means we have substantial portions of our population who, for lots of reasons, whether it be drugs, whether it be certain educational aspects, whether it be societal expectations, are not in the labor force.

I have actually done it before, and we will do it again over the next couple of months. I will do some charts where it is actually a really interesting sort of barbell-type curve where we have lots of young people—mostly males—who are not in the workforce, and then older parts of our population who are choosing maybe the rational thing, to retire.

How do you build a society that encourages a person to stay or to enter the workforce? So as we have debates around here where the left wants to talk about certain types of income assistance, we in the right will talk about: How do you take that and make it a reward to work?

We need more of our population to work. If we could go right now from that 63 percent labor force participation and get back to that 67 that we were at just a decade ago, it is amazing how it helps.

So the third thing I am going to give you is we need to have everything, whether it be from the discussion of SNAP—food stamps—to incentives in Social Security and Medicare, to encourage someone to stay in the workforce longer, to a young person in their student loans to actually enter the workforce and begin that process.

Every program we as a government, as a society, participate in, we should maximize the incentive to work because we need it if we are going to keep our promises.

Remember, this is a loop. Everything here we talk about is, if we are going to keep our promises on Social Security and Medicare, we have got to have the economic expansion that provides the resources.

The next one I am going to give you is the one that I am most optimistic about. And let's put that board up. But this one is a little harder to talk about, so I will beg you to bear with me.

When we have had debates around here on the ACA—some people know it as ObamaCare—our Republican alternative, or this healthcare debate, I need everyone intellectually to strip away our partisanship and take a step backwards. Almost all of the debates have been about who gets to pay.

The ACA just shifted lots and lots of the spending onto the government. Some of our alternatives were actually trying to spread the cost out more across the private payer populations. But we have done almost nothing to disrupt the cost curve.

So part of the thought experiment I want us all to engage in is: How many of us went to Blockbuster Video last weekend? I know it is a little starky, but think about it. Didn't it feel like almost overnight you no longer stood in line at the local retail strip center at Blockbuster Video to get the little silver disk that you were going to take home and shove into your Blu-ray player? You would now go home and you hit a button and you get Netflix, or HBO Go, or Hulu, or whatever you are watching.

That is what we call a disruption. Almost overnight, society figured out, hey, this is cheaper, faster, better.

How do we take that sort of concept of disruption and make it part of healthcare? How do you say, instead of playing this game that we have played over and over of just trying to move around who gets to pay, we are going to engage technology in such a fashion that we disrupt the cost curve of healthcare delivery?

The fact of the matter is there is so much technology rolling out, this is about to become your primary care physician.

How many of you have seen the articles of something that looks like a kazoo, a large kazoo that you blow into and it tells you if you have the flu virus. The article from last week, something a little bigger, a cone over your nose and mouth, you blow into it and it tells you if you have a bacteria.

There is the Apple Watch that will help you manage your arrhythmia. There is all of this technology rolling out. There are things, I am told, right

now at the Consumer Electronics Show, a couple of hundred items being shown at this moment that are all technology—we like to refer to them as digiceuticals in our office—that will disrupt the cost of healthcare if we can break down the regulatory legal barriers, whether it be on how we pay for them or the fact that many of them provide a level of autonomous healthcare. Our system as it is regulated and compensated today does not, was not designed for a level of autonomous.

We have a company in Scottsdale that now has four or five locations up. I guess they used to be Theranos booths. I think they are at Safeways, if I am allowed to say such a thing.

You go in and you functionally fill out your information in an iPad. You go into a private booth. There is an avatar on the screen. You grab the scope—and forgive me, I am not a medical person—and you shove it down your throat, in your ear, in your nose. It tells you how to move it. It tells you what they need.

You put your hand on something. It can do a pulse and the temperatures and other things. And an algorithm does the calculations. Apparently, the algorithm is amazingly accurate.

What would happen if that type of healthcare became available to all of us? We crash the price. We dramatically change the availability. And, yes, these things are scary because it is a disruption of technology into our economy, but we don't have a choice.

You saw the charts before. The greatest fragility in our society is promises we have made that we have no money. And almost every solution gets us nowhere close to the types of resources needed. We must have a disruption in the cost of delivery.

And part of the thought experiment, it has been a year or two, but we have seen things like the contact lens that can calculate your blood glucose, that talks to your insulin pump.

Because we do know that more than half of our healthcare costs in this country are for the 5 percent of our brothers and sisters who have chronic conditions, what happens when those digiceuticals help manage those chronic conditions to prevent the crashing?

How about the pill bottle that makes sure that—we know that 50 percent of pharmaceuticals are not used properly. The solution becomes a technology one when all of a sudden your phone rings. The beeper goes off. You haven't taken your hypertension medicine that morning.

We desperately need this body to start to understand this. And is that

Republican or Democratic? It is technology. Now, I am sure, eventually, we will break down and it will become a Republican issue or a Democratic issue, whether it be because which lobbyists go where, but for right now, it is just a solution.

The last one I will give you of my five is when we do all of this progrowth, this ability to crash the cost of delivery of healthcare, we are going to then have to have a really honest conversation of what we must do, particularly in Medicare, to modernize the design, deal with the reality that life expectancies for those who make it into retirement are going up.

Many of us will spend a third of our life in retirement. Do we need to change the incentives within those individual programs on how we take our benefits? How we manage those costs? How we participate in them?

We have some really interesting ideas: Would you make adjustments for folks who may have the ability to carry previous healthcare options with them?

But I truly believe we need to do all five of these, and we need to do them almost immediately because every day we wait, another 10,300 of our brothers and sisters, Americans, reach 65 and start to move into their benefits. And every day we wait, we avoid the reality of math.

I guess there are a couple of smart people out there who many years ago said: Tell me your demographics and I will tell you your destiny.

I have just told you our demographics. I have just shared with you the scale that is off the charts on the promises we have made and our lack of resources, and I believe I have actually begun to give an approach of a unified theory of how we make it work and how we make it through, functionally, our 74 million baby boomers who are moving into retirement and how we move through that population bubble so someone like my 3-year-old daughter also has the economic opportunities that I have had.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 11, 2019, at 9 a.m.

#### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE WOMACK, Chairman, Dec. 26, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE WOMACK, Chairman, Dec. 26, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE WOMACK, Chairman, Dec. 26, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Steve Gonzalez .....	10/29	11/1	Spain .....		753.00		13,844.13				
Sage Peterson .....	10/29	11/1	Spain .....		753.00		9,241.93				
Committee total .....					1,506.00		23,086.06				24,592.06

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE WOMACK, Chairman, Dec. 26, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Joseph Pinder .....	10/21	10/23	United Kingdom .....		596.00						596.00
	10/23	10/26	Israel .....		1,478.00		2,571.04				4,049.04
Hon. Ruben Kihuen .....	10/22	10/23	Finland .....		416.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				416.00
	10/23	10/25	Poland .....		556.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				556.00
Hon. Robert Pittenger .....	10/25	10/27	France .....		1,160.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,160.00
	10/22	10/23	Finland .....		416.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				416.00
	10/23	10/25	Poland .....		556.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				556.00
	10/25	10/27	France .....		1,160.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,160.00
	10/27	10/30	Israel .....		1,500.00		4,704.14		2,875.00		19,079.14
Hon. Steve Stivers .....	11/8	11/11	France .....		2,110.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,110.00
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....		684.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				684.00
Hon. Vicente Gonzalez .....	11/17	11/18	Czech Republic .....		400.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				400.00
	11/18	11/20	Uzbekistan .....		374.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				374.00
	11/20	11/21	Djibouti .....		369.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				369.00
	11/21	11/23	Kuwait .....		844.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				844.00
Hon. Juan Vargas .....	11/23	11/24	Ireland .....		201.39		( <sup>3</sup> )				201.39
Hon. Vicente Gonzalez .....	11/30	12/2	Mexico .....		723.90		( <sup>3</sup> )				723.90
	11/30	12/2	Mexico .....		723.90		( <sup>3</sup> )				723.90
Committee total .....					14,268.19		7,275.18		2,875.00		24,418.37

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Jan. 2, 2019.



REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES  
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Jan. 2, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Laura Fullerton	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Kyle Klein	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Forrest McConnell	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Alan Carroll	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Hope Goins	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Alex Marston	4/27	5/1	Australia		965.17		(3)		860.00		1,825.17
	5/1	5/3	New Zealand		490.00		(3)		372.00		862.00
Brendan Shields	5/8	5/10	Panama		218.00		(3)		337.00		555.00
	5/10	5/12	Colombia		490.00		(3)		512.33		1,002.33
	5/12	5/15	Mexico		732.00		(3)		598.00		1,330.00
Ryan Propis	5/8	5/10	Panama		218.00		(3)		337.00		555.00
	5/10	5/12	Colombia		490.00		(3)		512.33		1,002.33
	5/12	5/15	Mexico		732.00		(3)		598.00		1,330.00
Kris Carlson	5/8	5/10	Panama		218.00		(3)		337.00		555.00
	5/10	5/12	Colombia		490.00		(3)		512.33		1,002.33
	5/12	5/15	Mexico		732.00		(3)		598.00		1,330.00
Committee total					13,051.02				11,733.99		24,785.01

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Dec. 6, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Brendan Shields	10/17	10/19	Brazil		851.00		(3)		** 1,001.67		1,852.67
	10/19	10/21	Costa Rica		260.00		(3)		657.37		917.37
	10/21	10/23	Guatemala		260.00		(3)		NA		260.00
Kris Carlson	10/17	10/19	Brazil		851.00		(3)		** 1,001.67		1,852.67
	10/19	10/21	Costa Rica		260.00		(3)		657.37		917.37
	10/21	10/23	Guatemala		260.00		(3)		NA		260.00
Margaret Anne Moore	10/17	10/19	Brazil		851.00		(3)		** 1,001.67		1,852.67
	10/19	10/21	Costa Rica		260.00		(3)		657.37		917.37
	10/21	10/23	Guatemala		260.00		(3)		NA		260.00
Committee total					4,113.00				4,976.82		9,090.12

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.  
\*\* Includes Brazil and Guatemala legs of the trip.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Dec. 6, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Kimberly Betz	10/6	10/7	Poland		234.27				12,691.71		12,925.98
James Fleet	10/6	10/7	Poland		234.27				12,726.71		12,960.98
Steven Wall	10/6	10/7	Poland		234.27				13,737.71		13,971.98
Stanley White	10/6	10/7	Poland		234.27				11,890.43		12,124.70
Ashley Hebert	10/6	10/7	Poland		234.27				13,659.23		13,893.50
Kimberly Betz	10/7	10/8	Kosovo		172.21						172.21
James Fleet	10/7	10/8	Kosovo		172.21						172.21
Steven Wall	10/7	10/8	Kosovo		172.21						172.21
Stanley White	10/7	10/8	Kosovo		172.21						172.21
Ashley Hebert	10/7	10/8	Kosovo		172.21						172.21
Kimberly Betz	10/8	10/10	Spain		464.05						464.05
James Fleet	10/8	10/10	Spain		493.84						493.84
Steven Wall	10/8	10/10	Spain		493.84						493.84
Stanley White	10/8	10/10	Spain		493.84						493.84
Ashley Hebert	10/8	10/10	Spain		493.84						493.84
STAFFDEL Expenses	10/6	10/7	Poland						262.89		262.89
STAFFDEL Expenses	10/7	10/10	Kosovo, Spain						984.71		984.71
Committee total					4,471.81				64,705.79		70,425.20

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GREGG HARPER, Chairman, Dec. 20, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Carlton Davis, Commercial airfare, and Committee total.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. TREY GOWDY, Chairman, Dec. 20, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent).

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. [X]

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Apr. 15, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2018

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Stephen Cote, Don Sisson, Brendan Belair, and Committee total.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, July 1, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Stephen Cote, Alexander Davis, Don Sisson, and Committee total.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Oct. 9, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Steve Cote, Brendan Belair, Collin McCune, Annie Minkler, Alec Davis, and Committee total.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Dec. 23, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. George Holding .....	.....	.....	Austria .....	.....	690.27	.....	1,008.81	.....	.....	.....	1,699.08
.....	.....	.....	Israel .....	.....	1,605.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,605.00
Hon. Carlos Curbelo .....	.....	.....	Colombia .....	.....	684.00	.....	Personal Funds	.....	1,166.00	.....	1,850.00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,979.27	.....	1,008.81	.....	1,166.00	.....	5,154.08

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KEVIN BRADY Chairman, Dec. 31, 2018.

**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. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 424. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. DUNN (for himself and Mr. LAMB):

H.R. 425. A bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 426. A bill to withdraw certain National Forest System land in the Emigrant Crevice area located in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Park County, Montana, from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 427. A bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide reporting requirements for recipients of funds that provide access in rural and high cost areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 428. A bill to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 429. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself and Mr. BRADY):

H.R. 430. A bill to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through June 30, 2019; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 431. A bill to repeal the corporate average fuel economy standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 432. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 433. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 434. A bill to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 435. A bill to provide for a coordinated national research program to examine the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and unintended injury and death relating to gun ownership, use, and trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 436. A bill to re-establish certain hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure rules, standards for well construction, and waste management rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. DUFFY, and Mrs. ROBY):

H.R. 437. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit research with human fetal tissue obtained pursuant to an abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 438. A bill to deny Federal funding to any State or political subdivision of a State that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure that prevents or impedes a State or local law enforcement official from main-

taining custody of an alien pursuant to an immigration detainer issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 439. A bill to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 440. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to take property using eminent domain, 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. BABIN (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 441. A bill to require FERC to examine certain hydropower licences; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 442. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to extend the supervisory authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to include assessing compliance with the Military Lending Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 443. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to establish a five-year pilot program to make grants to local educational agencies for the hiring of school resource officers, 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 Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 444. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the period of eligibility for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 445. A bill to amend the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to make permanent the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 446. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax credits to veterans for the establishment of franchises; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 447. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 448. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formula by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, 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 Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 449. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 450. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 451. A bill to repeal the section of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that requires the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 452. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. COLE, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 453. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit

of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself and Mr. COOPER):

H.R. 454. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 455. A bill to ensure the functionality and security of new Federal websites that collect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 456. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit insurers to offer catastrophic coverage plans to anyone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 457. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum contribution limit for health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 458. A bill to prohibit implementation of the revised definition of short-term, limited duration insurance in order to permit such insurance to provide up to 12 months of coverage; 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 Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 459. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 460. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to amend the Federal medical assistance percentage for the District of Columbia for fiscal years after 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 461. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure appropriate care for certain 340B covered entities for victims of sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 462. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to provide for expedited project implementation relating to the comprehensive Everglades restoration plan; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 463. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 464. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain totally disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NEGUSE,

Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 465. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries; 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. KINZINGER (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WALDEN):

H.R. 466. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 467. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to encourage a victim-centered approach to combating human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 468. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 469. A bill to require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premium rates for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 470. A bill to repeal the mandatory flood insurance coverage requirement for commercial properties located in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 471. A bill to provide for greater transfer of risk under the National Flood Insurance Program to private capital and reinsurance markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 472. A bill to allow communities to develop alternative flood insurance rate maps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 473. A bill to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 474. A bill to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 475. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 476. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase for 2 years the

residential energy credit and the investment tax credit with respect to solar property with a nameplate capacity of less than 20 kilowatts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 477. A bill to amend section 7 of Public Law 100-515 (16 U.S.C. 1244 note) to promote continued use of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory at Gateway National Recreation Area by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 478. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 479. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 480. A bill to require an annual homeland threat assessment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 481. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the deadlines by which an application for asylum must be made, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 482. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 483. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land within the Henry's Lake Wilderness Study Area in the State of Idaho to resolve an unauthorized use and an occupancy encroachment dating back to 1983; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 484. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to regulate hydraulic fracturing operations on Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 485. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the circumstances under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide reimbursement for emergency ambulance services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. VELA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 486. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WALKER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of

Missouri, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COMER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 487. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of certain live animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms a Representative or Senator may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. MARINO):

H. Res. 35. A resolution recognizing January 2019 as "National Mentoring Month", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 36. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that congressional redistricting should be reformed to remove political gerrymandering; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 425.

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Art. II, Sec. 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 4

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes")

By Mr. DeSAULNIER:

H.R. 432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 435.

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. SOTO:

H.R. 436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XVI

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. 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. ENGEL:

H.R. 451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under the following provisions of the United States Constitution:

Article I, Section 1;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States."

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KINZINGER:

H.R. 466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1 [Rights Guaranteed]; . . . the means employed to effect its exercise may be neither arbitrary nor oppressive but must bear areal and substantial relation to an end that is public, specifically, the public health, safety, or morals, or some other aspect of the general welfare.

By Mr. KINZINGER:

H.R. 467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution which states that Congress has the

power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:

H.R. 468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power . . . to make 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. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution  
By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

“To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress 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. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 480.

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 4

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“The constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).”

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“The constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare

of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).”

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, which states: The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.J. Res. 25.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V, U.S. Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. VISLOSKEY.

H.R. 8: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KIM, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GRUJALVA, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 31: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BEYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mrs. KAPTUR.

H.R. 32: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. JONES, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 38: Mr. BACON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 51: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 67: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LAMB, Mr. BOST, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 93: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 95: Mr. POSEY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KIND, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 96: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 114: Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 116: Ms. HILL of California.

H.R. 138: Ms. NORTON, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 140: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 141: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 155: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 167: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 185: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 192: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 195: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 206: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 221: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 230: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 271: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARR, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 272: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 273: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 275: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 276: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 294: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 296: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 301: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 309: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 330: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 339: Mr. SIREs, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 341: Mr. NEAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 353: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 365: Ms. ESCOBAR and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 367: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COLE, Mr. JONES, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. COOK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SIREs, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 369: Mr. RESCIENTHALER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SPANO, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 372: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 384: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 385: Mr. MARINO and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 390: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 414: Mrs. MURPHY.

H.R. 421: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. SIREs.

H.J. Res. 4: Mr. WRIGHT.

H.J. Res. 6: Mr. WALDEN.

H.J. Res. 18: Mr. LATTA and Mrs. LESKO.

H. Res. 33: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mrs. BEATTY.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

No. 5

## 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.

Eternal God, You are wisdom without end, mercy without limits, and strength beyond resistance. We praise Your holy Name.

On this 19th day of the partial government shutdown, illumine our darkness, revive our faith, and heal our wounds. Give wisdom to our lawmakers. May they transform the jarring discord of anxiety and fear into the music of Your purposes.

Lord, help our Senators to serve our Nation and world, unsullied by base motives of self-interest. Pardon and overrule what has been done unworthily or left undone or done amiss.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 251, H.R. 264, AND H.R. 269

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 264) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 269) to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved drug application, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, all week I have been outlining the humanitarian and security crisis at our Nation's southern border. I have discussed the threats from the inflow of drugs and criminal aliens; I have shared career border security experts' strong support for physical barriers; and I have cited the empirical data that actually backs them up. But on day 20 of this partial government shutdown—a shutdown that has been prolonged by my Democratic colleagues' refusal to even come to the table—I

thought I might try something different this morning, so I brought a visual aid.

The chart right here behind me sums up my Democratic colleagues' past and present positions on border security.

Over here on the left, you have a border fence made out of steel bollard at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, AZ. Construction on this upgraded steel slat barrier began back in 2011 at the direction, mind you, of President Obama's Department of Homeland Security—this fence over here, under President Obama, at the direction of his Department of Homeland Security.

Just 5 years prior, Senator Obama joined with then-Senator Hillary Clinton, the current Democratic leader, and several other Democrats and voted to authorize 700 miles—700 miles—of physical barriers under the Secure Fence Act of 2006.

On the right of this chart, we have an example of a barrier like those the new Speaker of the House has recently described as immoral. I would defy my colleagues to tell me what the difference is. They are exactly identical. So we went from the Obama administration, when everybody was supporting a wall that looked just like this, to the Trump administration, where now it is immoral. It is the kind of barrier that all of a sudden the Democrats are so opposed to that they would rather prolong the partial government shutdown than agree to an additional investment of approximately one-tenth—one-tenth—of 1 percent of Federal spending.

They are identical walls, exactly alike. When President Obama was there, they were for it. When President Trump is there, they are not. As I said, it is basically the same photograph twice.

I do that to underscore the point that the Trump administration is requesting funding for the same kinds of physical barriers that the Obama administration was actually proud to build and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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bragged about: fencing with spaced slats that allowed visibility, made with reinforced steel.

They are the same kinds of barriers that Customs and Border Protection experts have told us actually produce real results. You could call them walls; you could call them fences; you could call them steel slats, but what they really are is effective. That is what they are. Call them what you will, but they are effective.

According to the Government Accountability Office, after the outdated fencing in Nogales was replaced by this particular steel slat structure, the Border Patrol reported a significant drop in violent encounters with illegal immigrants. The Border Patrol is not on either side of this debate. They are just giving us the facts—just the facts.

During the 2 years leading up to the 2011 construction, 376 assaults on Border Patrol agents were recorded in the Nogales station. In the 2 years after—after—the bollard fence went up, the number of assaults fell to 71. That is 376 down to 71. That is a decline of 81 percent after the wall or fence or steel slats—whatever you choose to call it.

We have seen big success in other sectors as well. The Trump administration reports that in four border sectors where physical barriers were recently built or upgraded, illegal traffic dropped by—listen to this—90 percent—90 percent.

It is a fact that physical barriers are effective, as Democratic Senators used to understand perfectly well when there was a different occupant in the White House and, indeed, used to say publicly. They used to say that they are an essential ingredient in a balanced strategy for securing our border.

That was then, and this is now.

So why the tale of two completely Democratic Parties? Why does the Speaker of the House feel compelled to denounce as “immoral” the very kind of structures that her own party leaders recently praised as essential? Why do my Democratic colleagues and why does the Democratic leader feel the need to prolong this partial shutdown to avoid getting more of the same investments he used to vote for? What is the reason for this bizarre about-face?

Well, even these very Democrats are finding it difficult to invent a good excuse. On Tuesday, the distinguished House majority leader, Mr. HOYER, was asked by reporters how there is any real daylight between border security construction projects that Democrats have supported in the past and the ones they are now trying to block. Here is what majority leader HOYER said to those reporters. This is an honest man. “I don’t have an answer that I think is a really good answer.” “I don’t have an answer that I think is a really good answer.” That is the majority leader of the House of Representatives. Well, the reason is because there isn’t a good answer. There is no credible answer to this massive flip-flop.

We all know what the real reason is. My Democratic colleagues are oper-

ating purely on political spite directed at the President of the United States. Why else would they rather have a partial government shutdown drag on for nearly 3 weeks than get more of what they used to vote for and brag about? Why else would they plug their ears and refuse to listen to the experts out on the ground who do this kind of work, like President Obama’s own former Border Patrol Chief? Here is what he says: “I cannot think of a legitimate argument why anyone would not support the wall as part of a multi-layered border security issue.”

Remember, the proposal we are talking about today would represent one-tenth of 1 percent of Federal spending for this year—one one-thousandth.

With a straight face, Democrats are trying to convince the country that the Federal Government simply cannot reopen, that they simply cannot negotiate with the President because the sky would come crashing down if we invest one one-thousandth of Federal spending in proven border security solutions—proven border security solutions, by the way, that their own party used to support and that President Obama’s Border Patrol Chief and other security experts continue to support.

Let’s call it what it is—a flip-flop that is not based on principle or on evidence but solely on the fact that President Trump is the occupant of the White House.

So Republicans support the President’s commonsense request. The experts on the ground who actually risk their own safety to secure our Nation support it. Even the 2006 versions of President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and the Democratic leader would have supported it, but today’s Democrats now say that the same fencing and barriers that were A-OK when President Obama was in the White House are now “immoral”—“immoral”—because President Trump is the one making the requests.

This is not how you make serious policy. Partisan tantrums are no way to govern. My Democratic colleagues need to get serious about their responsibilities, seek treatment for their brand-new partisan allergy, seek some treatment for their brand-new party allergy to border security, sit down with the President, and negotiate a solution that works for everyone. That is the only way to move the country forward.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

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#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today is the 20th day of the Trump shutdown. Tomorrow, it will tie the record for the longest shutdown in American history, and 800,000 Federal workers will miss a paycheck—TSA agents and Border Patrol, air traffic

controllers and food safety inspectors, veterans, and FEMA aides, and more. Many Federal employees—particularly, GS-3s and GS-4s and GS-5s—live paycheck to paycheck. Who is going to make the next mortgage payment for them? Who is going to put food on the table? And what on Earth do these employees and their agencies have to do with disagreements here over security down on our southern border?

The President is treating these hard-working Americans as nothing short of leverage—pawns in his political gambit to extract \$5 billion from American taxpayers to fund a border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. This is ridiculous and cruel, and it needs to end now—right now.

The Democratic position is very simple. Let’s separate our disagreements over border security from the government shutdown, reopen all the government agencies unrelated to border security, and let’s continue to work to resolve our differences. Do not hold all of these workers as hostages, as pawns, as leverage.

That is why Democrats have passed the House legislation to reopen government that was drafted and supported by Senate Republicans. We Democrats are not trying to push down the throats of Republicans something they don’t support or they can’t swallow. Four of the bills in this package passed the Senate 92 to 6. The other two came through committee. They didn’t get to the floor. They passed 31 to 0 and 30 to 1. There is nothing—I repeat, nothing—contained in the legislation that Senate Republicans oppose.

So why aren’t we voting on it? Because Leader MCCONNELL is hiding behind President Trump, saying he will not bring to the floor a bill to reopen the government unless the President says OK.

Now, for the past 3 weeks, we have tried to get the President to “yes.” We have gone around and around and around with the White House and made little progress. Congressional leaders have now been to the White House three separate times for negotiations. Each time, the President has been intransigent and uncompromising. He refuses to back down from his position that the price to reopen the government is \$5 billion of taxpayer money for a wall that he promised Mexico would pay for.

On multiple occasions, he has refused our request to reopen unrelated parts of the government and continue negotiations on border security, revealing that he is holding the American people hostage as leverage, and he seems to be—in his words—“proud” of it. After only a short time into yesterday’s meeting, the President got up, said “bye-bye,” and left. Does that sound like someone who is working to solve this impasse?

Allies of the President pointed out that he passed out candy to start the meeting. With all due respect, President Trump, we don’t need candy. Federal workers need their paychecks.

The Congress—the Senate in particular—can no longer wait for this President to see the light of reason. We gave it a good-faith effort. Staffers worked over the weekend. Speaker PELOSI and I have gone over to the White House whenever we have been asked, but the President is simply not budging.

A few weeks back, we all thought that the President, realizing he doesn't control the House, would come around and support a true compromise before hundreds of thousands of Federal workers would miss their paychecks. Clearly, that was wrong.

We need intervention, and Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans have a responsibility not simply to wait for the President but to intervene. Leader MCCONNELL has voted for every single one of the six appropriation bills Democrats passed through the House. He voted for all six of them in committee, and he voted for four of them again on the floor, because two didn't get to the floor. There is nothing that he or his party truly opposes in this legislation.

They are refusing to vote on it because the President has bullied them into his hostage-taking gambit. I know that is not where most of my friends on the other side want to be. I don't even believe it is where my friend Leader MCCONNELL wants to be. Just listen to Leader MCCONNELL from last year:

Well I'm in favor of border security. There are some places along the border where [a wall is] probably not the best way to secure the border.

Here is Leader MCCONNELL in 2014:

Remember me? I am the guy that gets us out of shutdowns . . . it's a failed policy.

Fast-forward to today, and Leader MCCONNELL—"the guy that gets us out of shutdowns"—is aiding and abetting the blockade against reopening the government over a policy he doesn't fully support.

In a moment, my friends Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN will give the Senate a chance to do the right thing by asking this Chamber to vote on the six appropriations bills already supported by Senate Republicans and a short-term continuing resolution for Homeland Security.

Frankly, even if President Trump doesn't support this legislation, his intransigence has forced our hand and hurt America. We need to move forward, and Leader MCCONNELL should allow the vote to happen.

I yield to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as Leader SCHUMER has pointed out, starting today, 800,000 Federal workers are going to be missing their paychecks. In this region, there are 140,000. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I, representing Maryland, and Senators WARNER and Kaine, representing Virginia, have made the point of what this is going to mean for families in our communities.

This shutdown is outrageous and dangerous—caused by President Trump. Workers are not going to be receiving their paychecks and are going to be at risk. Our whole country is at risk. Let me put this in perspective, if I might. It is like AT&T, General Motors, Apple, Lockheed Martin, Google, and ExxonMobil laying off their entire workforce at one time. That is the impact we have now with 800,000 workers not receiving their paychecks. Kevin Hassett, who is the Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, points out that this will cause a \$1.2 billion-per-week hit on our economy.

America is being held hostage by President Trump—held hostage over his desire to have a wall built. It is not about border security. We have already appropriated funds for border security, and we are prepared to continue to protect our borders. This is about President Trump and his wall. We should open government and work together for the American people.

There are seven appropriations bills that have not yet been acted upon. With six of those appropriations bills, there is no controversy. They have nothing to do with the border wall. They have nothing to do with homeland security. These are six appropriations bills that this body has already acted on in one way or the other. They include Financial Services and General Government, Agriculture, Interior and Environment, and Transportation-HUD. Those four appropriations bills passed this body by a vote of 92 to 6. Then, there are State-Foreign Operations, which passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously, and Commerce-Justice-Science, which passed by a vote of 30 to 1.

These six appropriations bills have already been acted on under Republican leadership in a bipartisan manner in this body. That is exactly what H.R. 21, which is pending before this body, incorporates. It is not a Democratic effort; it is to reaffirm what this body has already done and allow these six appropriations bills to pass and for those workers and those agencies to be fully operable without the hostage-taking by the President of the United States.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 21

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 5, H.R. 21, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, there is a

lot of important business the Senate could be tackling. We have typically done that during these government shutdowns. The last thing we need to do right now is to trade pointless—absolutely pointless—show votes back and forth across the aisle.

Just a few days ago, very recently—not years ago—before the latest shifts in political winds, my good friend the Democratic leader completely agreed with me on this. In fact, he and I made an explicit commitment to several of our Members on this very point. We announced it here on the floor. We agreed that we wouldn't waste the Senate's time on show votes related to government funding until a global agreement was reached that could pass the House, pass the Senate, and which the President could sign.

Here is how the Democratic leader himself stated his position, and remember, this was very recently: In order for an agreement to be reached, all four congressional leaders must sign off and the President must endorse it and say he will sign it. That is how you make a law. Most importantly, the President must publicly support and say he will sign our agreement before it gets a vote in either Chamber—before it gets a vote in either Chamber.

That was my good friend the Democratic leader just recently. I intend to keep my word, and I intend to hold him to his.

Yesterday, the White House made clear that the President opposes piecemeal appropriations that neglect border security and would veto them, so obviously that isn't going to become law. This proposal flunks the Democratic leader's own test of a few days ago.

Look, the political stunts are not going to get us anywhere. Senate Democrats should stop blocking the Senate from taking up other urgent matters, like the pending bills concerning Israel and the Syrian civil war. In previous government shutdowns, the Senate has done business. The Senate hasn't been shut down. That is what we ought to be doing and actually at the same time negotiate with the President on border security because nothing else is going to get a solution. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, if I could, very briefly.

I am extremely disappointed. I can assure you, the majority leader, this is not a show vote issue with 800,000 Federal workers being denied their paychecks. The last time I checked the Constitution, we are a coequal branch of government, and we should act as a coequal branch of government and pass legislation that is overwhelmingly supported by this body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, colleagues on the Democratic side of

the aisle apparently pledged to oppose proceeding to other important bills—we have experienced that at least to this point—during the government shutdown even though there is no precedent for that.

All but four yesterday voted against the motion to proceed to S. 1, and I am assuming they will vote against it again this afternoon. S. 1—the bill they are preventing us from going to—has wide bipartisan support and is a critical step in supporting our allies in the Middle East and securing peace in Syria.

I have talked to many Americans who are intensely interested in the Israel issues. They don't understand why this important legislation would be stymied over a dispute over something entirely different.

Through the Chair, I ask Senator CARDIN if this blockade against business on the floor is absolute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

The Senator from Maryland may respond.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I might return the question and ask the distinguished majority leader whether his objections to reopening the government with action we have already taken previously is absolute. I can assure the majority leader that it is my commitment to our Federal workers and to our country that the first order of business here should be the reopening of government. There are other important issues we need to do that I strongly support. I, quite frankly, do not understand the majority leader's position as to why he would deny us a vote on reopening government that passed this body unanimously in the past.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I say to my friend from Maryland—I will repeat the question in a minute, but the answer to his question to me is, because this will not produce a result. It has been perfectly clear that the only way to produce this result is for the President, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader to agree, because we need votes from Democrats both in the Senate and the House in order to pass a measure that the President will sign.

My question of the Senator from Maryland was, is this blockade against business on the floor absolute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, of course I would repeat my request of the distinguished majority leader whether his objections are absolute.

Let me just point this out. We passed the bill that I asked unanimous consent—basically that has been passed nearly unanimously by this body—92 to 6 for these appropriations to pass. The last time I checked the Constitution, that is enough even for a veto override. I don't think anything has changed. These bills have nothing to do—zero to do with the Homeland Security wall

issue. Zero. So why doesn't our distinguish majority leader, as the leader of a coequal branch of government, allow us to speak on behalf of our responsibilities under article I of the Constitution? Let us take our action that we can take right now, today, at this very moment, and pass six appropriations bills where there is no controversy whatsoever in this body.

Mr. MCCONNELL. As I said, Madam President, repeatedly, it will not solve the problem because the President has made it clear he won't sign it.

Let me try one more time. Does the Senator, through the Chair—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will come to order.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Can we have order in the Senate?

Does the Senator intend to vote against proceeding to other measures during the government shutdown?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. My first order of priority right now, since we can do this at this very moment, is to reopen the government. It is outrageous that the government is closed. People's lives are being affected every minute. I heard just yesterday of a layoff of another 180 jobs in my State because the Department of Agriculture is closed. We have an important economic development program in Baltimore, and HUD can't act on the papers right now. That is being delayed.

To me, that is something we can get done right now. As a Senator from Maryland, I am going to use every opportunity I can to reopen government in a responsible manner. I am disappointed that the majority leader is not using the opportunity we have right now to pass six appropriations bills that are not in controversy.

If the majority leader could answer for me, why are we holding up these six bills that have nothing to do with the central debate argument? We can put enough votes on the board to show the President of the United States that he doesn't have the support in the Senate, and we have the votes to override his veto. To me, that should be our first order of business.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I think since the Senator from Maryland is unwilling to answer my question, the assumption should be—and I say this to the broad pro-Israel community in America that we all interact with on issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship—the Senator is saying he might well vote to proceed to something else but not vote to proceed to these important Israel bills and this important Syria bill.

I want to make sure everybody understands where we are. The Senator is refusing to answer the question as to whether or not this blockade against Senate business applies to everything or just to these pro-Israel bills. So I think the refusal to answer provides the answer for our colleagues, and I assume we can anticipate the Democrats

will try to get votes on other matters during the government shutdown but just not the Israel issue and the Syria issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I will express my views on issues. I don't need the majority leader trying to express how I will vote on future issues. I will answer to the people of Maryland on how I will act on issues that are up before the Senate.

My top priority right now is to reopen the government, and I am very disappointed that the majority leader will not allow us to act as a coequal branch of government.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, would my colleague from Maryland yield?

I will just say three words to my friend the majority leader: Open the government. It is in your hands.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, through the Chair, I have a question of Senator VAN HOLLEN. He is going to propound a consent agreement, I assume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I think we all know the Constitution of the United States, under article I, says the Senate and the House of the United States are separate and coequal branches of government with the executive branch.

We are now seeing more and more Americans hurt every day by the government shutdown, Americans losing access to services. We just saw that the Food and Drug Administration has stopped routine food safety inspections of seafood. We just saw that the EPA has halted one of the Federal Government's most important health activities—the inspection of Federal factories, powerplants, oil refineries, water treatment plants. Eight hundred thousand Federal employees are not getting paid. Hundreds of thousands of them are going to work every day, including at our border, protecting our border, not getting paid. Hundreds of thousands more have been locked out of work.

There is a Maryland mom who just had to go on the internet to set up a GoFundMe account to help pay her son's college tuition because they are on a monthly installment plan. I talked to the head of a community college in Maryland just the other day. I went to see her, asked how things are. The first thing she told me, her phone had been ringing off the hook all morning because the parents of students of the community college weren't going to be able to make their monthly installment payments.

Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are one paycheck away from not being able to pay their mortgage or their rent, and tomorrow hundreds of thousands of them are not going to get a paycheck.

So to the majority leader, I will just say, we should not be contracting out our constitutional responsibilities to any President—certainly not a President who said he is proud to shut down the Government of the United States. There is nothing to be proud of in denying important services and leaving 800,000 people without a paycheck. I don't think any of us should be proud of that, and we shouldn't be contracting out our responsibilities to the President of the United States.

We should vote on these measures we have already voted for. Senator CARDIN just asked us to vote on this at the Senate desk. It has been supported in various ways by a bipartisan majority right here in the U.S. Senate.

I have in my hand H.J. Res. 1. This is also on the Senate calendar. It is identical, with respect to the Department of Homeland Security, to the measure this Senate passed just a few weeks ago.

Let's reopen the Department of Homeland Security at current funding levels until February 8. In fact, if I recall, that was the majority leader's legislation. We passed it overwhelmingly on a bipartisan vote.

The House, 1 week ago, as their first order of business, passed this bill and the bill Senator CARDIN asked us to vote on.

This bill to open the Department of Homeland Security, as we negotiate the issue of border security—and there is no dispute over whether we need border security. Of course we need secure borders. The issue is over the most effective and smart way to accomplish that.

So now this bill is right back in our possession. It is on the calendar. The question is, Why are our colleagues on the Republican side refusing to allow a vote on the very bill they proposed in this body just a few weeks ago, and how can you justify to the American people that you are not going to vote on something you yourself proposed as the first order of business in the U.S. Senate, when people are losing those services, losing public safety protections, and 800,000 Federal employees are not being paid?

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.J. RES. 1

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. I will not prolong this because I know a lot of my Democratic colleagues on the floor may want to speak, but there are two shutdowns going on here. The first one related to the government can only be solved with a Presidential signature, supportive of the Speaker of the House and supportive of at least 10 of our Democratic colleagues—or 7 on the other side. In other words, there has to be a deal, an agreement.

There is a second shutdown going on that, as far as my research can discover, is rather unprecedented. The Senate itself is being shut down because of the refusal of our colleagues on the other side to do business in the Senate during this period. There is no precedent for that. There is no reason for that. We are all here.

The bill they are refusing to let us get on relates to Israel, our great friend Israel, and addresses the atrocities that have been occurring in Syria.

I am having a hard time understanding why the Senate should be shut down as well as the government. We are all here. In fact, attendance looks pretty good, and I don't know why we can't process bills that the vast majority of us support.

I had hoped to pass all of these bills at the end of last session. We had some last-minute objections—and I will say on our side—and so we were unable to do it, but the vast majority of the Members of the Senate do want to process these bills.

So I would hope, no matter how you view the government shutdown, that there is no real significant reason to shut down the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. We are clearly not shut down. We are all here.

I would say to the majority leader, if you go to a lot of Federal Agencies right now, no one is there. They are shut down. They can't do the work of the American people, which is why the FDA is no longer doing important food inspections on seafood. It is why the EPA is not able to inspect major polluters to protect the public health. We are open.

All we are saying is, we want our first order of business to be to also open the eight of nine Federal Departments that have nothing to do with a wall or border security. The EPA's work has nothing to do with a wall. The work the FDA does on food inspection has nothing to do with a wall. So pass the measures that have already been agreed to in the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan basis. Open those eight of nine Departments at funding levels the Senate supported to the end of the fiscal year. Then, with the Department of Homeland Security, do exactly what the majority leader proposed right here and which we supported just a few weeks ago so we can work with the President. I mean, he walked out the other day, but we would like to work with the President to resolve that.

What we are saying is, we are open, and we want to focus on the urgent business of reopening the rest of the Federal Government, both to provide the American people with the services they paid for and to make sure Federal employees don't go without paychecks.

I will tell you, your phones will all be ringing off the hook tomorrow when Federal employees begin to miss that first paycheck. I will tell you, GS-2s, GS-3s in the Federal Government, they are one paycheck away from not being able to pay their bills.

On top of that, you have small businesses all over the country—I have heard from my Republican colleagues, small businesses that contract with the Federal Government, they are being squeezed. One in the State of Maryland, nonprofit small business, laid off 173 people just yesterday. The Federal contractors' employees? They are not coming to work. They are shut out, and they are not getting paid.

So this is having an increasingly harmful effect every day on people throughout the country, and we have it in our power today to vote on bills we have already voted for in the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan basis to reopen.

We should not be accomplices to the shutdown the President said he would be proud of. We should say today, we are proud to cast our first vote, as the House did, to reopen the Federal Government and get people back to work.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S.1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, now, President Trump is right about one thing. There is a crisis in America, and I want the President to know I agree with him, but I would note it is not fictitious hordes of illegal immigrants crashing into our southern border. That is nothing more than the imaginary invasion of a President obsessed with constructing a wasteful monument to himself; the obsession of a President who, long before the Trump shutdown, began resorting to misinformation and stoking fear among the American people for political gain.

There is a crisis in America, but it is not the crisis the President wants us to believe. It is a crisis at the kitchen table of Americans.

Hundreds of thousands of American families are preparing to miss their first paycheck through no fault of their own. These families are trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet, how they will pay their mortgage or heating bills or, God forbid, whether they can afford both food for their table and medicine for their children next week. That is not fiction. That is a real choice in America today. That is the crisis in America.

These are the adjustments President Trump has glibly said our country's public servants are "willing" to make on behalf of his wasteful border wall; incidentally, a wall the President repeatedly promised—gave his word—that Mexico would pay for.

I have been privileged to be here for a long time, but in my 44 years in the U.S. Senate, I have never seen something so tone deaf from a President of the United States of either party. Even during his address to the Nation on Tuesday night—which was more of an exercise in data-distorting demagoguery than informing the American people—President Trump refused to acknowledge the real pain the Trump shutdown is causing.

Dozens of Vermonters have contacted my office to share how they are suffering under the Trump shutdown. These Vermonters are urging the President and my Republican colleagues in the Senate to stop playing politics with their lives and reopen the Federal Government. These are not just people who are Federal employees; these are people who have contracts with the Federal Government. These are people who have to rely on the Federal Government being open.

I will give you one example. Like many Americans affected by the Trump shutdown, one of the Vermonters who contacted my office is a veteran. He spent more than two decades serving his country in the Navy. He is now a Federal employee in charge of more than a dozen people who are coming to him with questions he cannot answer.

He writes:

I have run out of words to tell the 15 employees who work for me when asked how they are supposed to provide food, heat, and electricity for their families here in Vermont.

Keep in mind, the weather in Vermont is projected to drop well below zero this weekend with enough snow to close down all of Washington.

This Navy veteran continues:

We are real people, with real families, and real bills. Creditors do not "understand" [as the President claimed they would]. They want their money.

Try to explain to the bank why you cannot pay your mortgage this month. Go to the bank and say: Well, the President of the United States is throwing a tantrum, and he is holding

my paycheck hostage. Try explaining that to the bank. Try explaining that to your children.

Another Vermonter wrote to me expressing concern for his 88-year-old aunt. She recently moved to a new nursing home to be closer to the family. Because the phones at the Treasury Department are going unanswered, approval for the transfer of his aunt's benefits from one facility to another has been delayed. Thankfully, we heard that the transfer had been approved just this morning, but that doesn't detract from the uncertainty and the anxiety caused for this family.

The new home allowed her to stay while we in Washington were sorting out this mess caused by President Trump, but the bills are piling up, and the delays are placing a burden on what is a small local nursing home that has to pay its bills, including when it is 5 below zero.

The Vermonter said in his letter: "To be sure, we do not believe that capitulation to the Republican demand for the Wall is the answer; yet, the toll on the people of holding the government hostage to such outrageous demands must not be ignored."

Finally, today, let me share the story of a Vermonter who wrote to me about her sister. Her sister joined the U.S. Forest Service. In the wake of the recent hurricanes and typhoons, she used a government credit card issued in her name, following orders to travel with the service to assist in the aftermath of these disasters. But now the bills for her official travel—travel she was ordered to take by the Federal Government—are due. Guess what. There is no one at the Forest Service to pay them. She is now stuck with more than \$5,500 in government bills in her name for carrying out her duties for the Federal Government. Now she has to pay them or risk damaging her own financial record.

In her letter to me, she writes:

This, though, is one very small story in a flood of credit disasters, unpaid mortgages, Christmas debts, anxieties, and uncertainties among government employees affected by the shutdown.

I'm writing you to suggest that this kind of government shutdown should not be on the negotiation table, because it holds out the possibility that the suffering of the American people can be used as political leverage. There are other ways.

I agree. This is just a handful of stories from my small State of Vermont. Think of the fear and anxiety today of American families as they sit around the kitchen table trying to figure out what to do when the check does not arrive tomorrow. Think about the impact this has on the talented young student who is thinking about taking a pay cut to work for their government out of a sense of duty. Think about the morale of the American people who serve this country when the President of the United States says that their livelihoods are worth risking over his border wall—and I say "border wall" on purpose. If this were about border secu-

rity, the men and women who protect our borders and patrol our coastlines would be receiving their paychecks, not forced to be pawns in the President's political game.

Think about that. If this were really about border security, these people protecting us would be paid. The great irony of the Trump shutdown is that it has made our borders less safe, not more safe. Today, 88 percent of the Department of Homeland Security, including 54,000 Customs and Border Patrol agents are working without pay. At our airports, where the overwhelming majority of the "suspected terrorists" President Trump's wall is meant to stop are actually intercepted—keep that in mind. He keeps talking about all of the suspected terrorists. They are not coming across the border. They are being stopped at the airports. So what has happened at our airports? More than 51,000 TSA agents at our airports are working without pay. Morale is so low that many just stopped showing up for work, leading to longer wait times and straining security measures.

(Mr. SULLIVAN assumed the Chair.)

Take another area. More than 42,000 members of our Coast Guard—and the Coast Guard is an effective investment in securing our borders and stopping the flow of drugs. But 42,000 members of our Coast Guard are working without pay as I stand here today. The Coast Guard are deployed along the coasts of the distinguished Presiding Officer's State and are deployed in my State.

What does President Trump say to all of this? Nothing. It has been widely reported that instead of sitting down and negotiating with Democrats, President Trump simply stood up and walked out of the room like a bully yesterday, tweeting shortly afterwards, "bye-bye."

Does anybody think he hadn't planned to do this before he went there? This is what you do on so-called reality TV. Well, this is not reality TV; this is reality. He should try to act Presidential.

There is a real crisis in our country. It is a crisis at the kitchen table as families struggle over how they will make it through the next week. It is a crisis of morale as dedicated men and women who serve our country debate whether to stop serving our country and look instead for a career where they cannot be used as a political pawn. It is a crisis of confidence in the young men and women, doubting a career in public service, and it is a crisis of leadership when the President simply walks away so that he can send another tweet. This is a crisis created by one man, President Trump.

We have bipartisan bills before us that could reopen the government. We have passed them in this body before by an overwhelming veto-proof majority. Well, I would call upon our Republican leader to bring up these bipartisan bills to reopen the government. It

is time for Republicans and Democrats to join together to tell the President to put a stop to this self-inflicted wound on this great country, and he needs to hear it from both Democrats and Republicans. I implore Leader MCCONNELL: Bring up H.R. 21 and H.J. Res. 1. Send them to the President. Send them to the President. Show the rest of the world that the United States is a great country and can act like a great country, not act like a pawn in a temper tantrum.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank my colleague the Senator from Connecticut for giving me a chance to very briefly—less than 1 minute—add my voice as well.

I echo what my friend the Senator from Vermont has said. I want to commend the leadership of my friends the Senators from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The Commonwealth of Virginia is experiencing the same kinds of challenges and crisis that Maryland is. We have a disproportionate number of Federal employees, and I think we underestimate what is going to happen when these employees don't get their paychecks on Friday—that coming on top of countless number of contractors. I have small business contractors who have had to shut down their business because they can't make the payroll. Even reopening the government will not mean those businesses will come back into operation.

I simply wanted—I am sorry the majority leader is not here. The majority leader keeps saying, you know, that we are powerless in this body to do anything, that the only way we can pass any legislation is if the President agrees.

I do not want to overstate the case, but I would simply refer the majority leader to article I, section 7, clause 2 of our Constitution, which gives this body, if it reaches a two-thirds vote, the ability to override a Presidential veto and make the legislation, which has already passed this body by a 96 to 2 vote. If those same votes stand by the legislation that we all agreed to before Christmas—if it was a good idea before Christmas to reopen the government and continue the debate on national security on a separate path, how is it not a good idea today, when Federal employees are going without their pay?

So the majority leader's unwillingness to allow us to vote, to have our voices be heard—and if that vote would in any way appear close to where this same body voted before Christmas, we would have a solution to this crisis. I simply wanted to point that out.

I know the majority leader knows our laws and knows our Constitution, but I find it a little bit rich when he says that we have no ability at all to weigh in on this process and he refuses to take any action that will not meet with the agreement of this President.

The Constitution of the United States gives the Senate the ability to

have their voices heard. We have already voted in margins that would well exceed the veto requirements laid out by the Constitution. I hope he will give us the right to vote and let us have our voices heard and potentially be able to have the government of the United States reopened.

With that, I thank my colleagues for giving me the chance to add that small item to the debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was happy to yield to the Senator from Virginia because I know this issue of the government shutdown is particularly acute in Virginia and in the State of Maryland, but we feel it all across the United States of America.

Just a few minutes ago, I was on the phone with Dr. Scott Gottlieb of the Food and Drug Administration, and I asked him: What is the impact of the Trump shutdown on the Food and Drug Administration? Dr. Gottlieb was very explicit. He said that the area that was hardest hit was food safety.

Food safety is a responsibility that was assumed by the Federal Government over 100 years ago after publication of the novel "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair. We decided to create a Federal Agency with the responsibility of inspecting food so that people across America would not suffer foodborne illness or worse.

We have a great Agency, and it does a great job when it is fully funded operationally, but the fact is, over 40 million Americans will end up with a food illness in any given year, and over 3,000 will die. The responsibility of this Agency is not some bureaucratic function; it is quite literally a life-and-death responsibility.

I asked Dr. Gottlieb: What does the government shutdown do to the Food and Drug Administration when it comes to food safety? He said: We have had to suspend operations at the highest risk food operations.

I asked him for an illustration, and he said: For example, the facilities that make baby food, high-risk food inspection responsibilities at the FDA. He said: We decided we had to call back 150 employees to make sure that we resume inspections at these high-risk facilities, such as those that make baby food.

Thank goodness.

He told me he has a problem. Here is the problem. The people he is going to call back are in the lower income categories of Federal employees. Many of them are making a decent wage, but only a decent wage, and, certainly, they are not wealthy by any stretch, nor do they have savings to turn to.

He said: I have to call back these folks who are literally out of work because of the government shutdown—some of whom have applied for unemployment compensation—and tell them they have to come to work. Commissioner Gottlieb said: When I declare them essential, that is the law. They

have to return to work and come here for no pay.

We have an important responsibility of the government, food safety, which is now being ignored—or I should say diminished—because of the shutdown, and as they try to resume some part of it, Commissioner Gottlieb has the awful responsibility of trying to pick those employees who will be hurt the least if they are called back to work.

This is America. This is the U.S.A. This is a great country, perhaps one of the greatest in the history of the world, and this is where we stand when it comes to making certain that baby food is safe for American families across the United States. Now we have to pick and choose those who will be asked to come to work for nothing to perform that function.

That is not the only area that he mentioned. He went on to talk about areas that are not covered by user fees. You see, some of the pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies actually pay for inspections. As long as user fees are coming in, the inspections continue. But it doesn't apply to every aspect when it comes to medicine. For example, when it comes to compounding medicines, which is done at the State level, primarily, the Federal Government has a responsibility in some areas to make sure that those medicines are safe. Do you recall a few years ago, in the State of Massachusetts, when the compounding standards were lax and innocent people died because the injections they were given were not sterile? Those are exactly the responsibilities of the Food and Drug Administration. They are the responsibilities that are not being met as they are supposed to be met today because of this government shutdown.

If you think this is just about a lot of bureaucrats who are not showing up to work and are sitting by some swimming pool, you are dead wrong. These are people who are doing important things for America and keeping us safe in the process.

There is also one other thing I want to mention to you. If you are in the midst of a clinical trial to approve a new drug—an important drug for someone whose life depends on it—the clinical trials continue through the government shutdown. But if you completed your trials and you want to make an application to sell this drug in America, you are stopped cold by this government shutdown. Commissioner Gottlieb says we can't process these. Those potential lifesaving drugs have to sit on the shelf because of the government shutdown, which this President has proudly declared he believes is in the best interest of America. Tell that to the families who are waiting for that drug. Tell that to the people who labored for years to get it ready for market—that they just have to wait until the President is ready to move.

I was there yesterday. I was at the meeting of the leaders with the President, Vice President, and members of

his Cabinet. It was not a long meeting. I think it lasted 17 minutes. The President came in and distributed candy bars to the people who were in attendance, and then started his speech. It basically came down to this: Unless you are prepared to give me this wall, I will keep the government shut down. That is what he said. When we made it clear that the government shutdown should not be a bargaining chip in this process, the President stood up after 17 minutes, and said: This is a total waste, turned, and, in a fit of pique, left the room. To me, that was a sad moment in the history of this country, when the Chief Executive of the U.S. Government, a man who was elected to manage and lead our government, has voluntarily shut down important and critical functions of that government for a political purpose. He is not serving the American people as he was elected to serve.

The victims, of course, will not be the President and his family, nor many of the people who were in that room. It will be the 800,000 Federal employees who are victims of the shutdown. It will be half of them who are showing up for work today with no pay and will not receive a paycheck over the weekend.

Many of us will travel home over the weekend and go through an airport. We will go through the TSA inspection, as all passengers do, to make sure we travel safely on airplanes. It is tough to look those TSA agents in the eye because we know what is happening. Many of them, barely making enough money to get by—paycheck to paycheck—will not receive a paycheck this weekend. I called a group of them together at the O'Hare Airport on Tuesday. We held a press conference. I asked them to explain what this means to you. They talked about being unable to come up with the money to pay for gasoline to drive back and forth to work 39 miles each way. They talked about the difficulties the families are going to face when it comes to daycare for their children. What are they going to do with their kids if they are coming to work for no pay and they can't pay the daycare service? For those who have mortgage and rental payments, some real consequences can follow. If you fail to make that mortgage payment on a timely basis, you may face an increase on the interest rate on your mortgage, and you may even face a downgrade on your credit rating.

That is the real world for people who don't live in the White House. That is the real world for the victims of this prideful shutdown, which President Trump believes is in the best interest of this country. He is wrong. It is in the best interest of this country to open this government. It is in the best interest of Democrats and Republicans to sit down together and work out our differences when it comes to border security. We are all dedicated to border security. We just see it differently. We have to find middle ground to come to a conclusion on this important issue.

The last point I want to make is this. I am concerned that the majority leader—the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL—has made it clear that he is waiting for a permission slip from President Trump to be the leader of the Senate. We are a separate and proud branch of government. We are given authority under this Constitution which the President does not have. We do not wait for a permission slip from him to exercise that constitutional authority. The votes to pass these appropriations bills, I believe, are on the floor of the Senate today, and that is what has led Senator MCCONNELL to the conclusion that he wouldn't dare call the bill. I think there are enough Republican Senators who have spoken to me privately who are ready to step forward and say: End this mindless shutdown. They are ready to vote for the spending bills. Will it reach 67 to override a Presidential veto? It just might do that. But let's test it by being the Senate under the Constitution, not by waiting for a permission slip from President Trump to exercise the constitutional responsibilities which each of us swore to uphold when we became Members of this important body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the Senator from Illinois is absolutely right. The votes are there to pass these six bills. The majority leader, in effect, is acting as a buffer for the President. He is not serving this body because he knows that his own Members would vote for it and vote to reopen the government. That is because they are hearing the American people tell them, as they are telling us: Reopen the government.

That was the message that Senator SCHUMER delivered. It is simple, direct, and it is true. The American people want the government reopened. They know we have disagreements all the time. We disagree about policy and politics, proposals and legislation, but we don't shut down the government simply because we disagree. The government continues to do its work and serve the American people even as we have disagreements.

Our friends on the other side, the Republican leadership, are complicit in this shutdown by refusing to permit us to do our duty and our work, which is to consider and pass legislation that will keep the government serving the people of the United States. If the President vetoes those bills, there may well be enough votes here to override them. That is our job as well.

The reason the American people want us to reopen the government is that they know the crisis here is one that Donald Trump has made himself. It is a manufactured crisis involving dedicated public servants who are missing paychecks, taxpayers denied critical government services, economic hardship for small businesses, and low-in-

come Americans. It is a crisis that is spreading.

It is not a crisis at the border in security that the President, supposedly, is witnessing as we speak here. There is a humanitarian crisis at the border, which is also of Donald Trump's making, but the broader crisis throughout this country will affect our economy, our education system, our transportation, and the real security of this country, which is our ability to help each other.

I have looked at those folks in the face, most recently the day before yesterday, at Foodshare, our food bank in Connecticut, which will soon be unable to meet the challenges and needs of the food insecure in Connecticut because the Commodities Distribution Program will be crippled. Their cost and transportation and storage will be overwhelming and unmet. Children and seniors will begin to go hungry because their reserves will be exhausted by the end of this month.

I have spoken to the Coast Guard members who will be unpaid. Alone among our military services—unfairly, unfortunately, unacceptably—they will be unpaid. We know in Connecticut the value of our Coast Guard as a military branch of our government. We are home, proudly, to the Coast Guard Academy, with over 2,000 Active-Duty servicemembers, cadets, and civilian employees who are feeling the direct effect of this Trump shutdown.

In reality, it is a Trump lockout, not a shutdown. He is locking out so many dedicated workers of our Federal Government. But the Coast Guard is continuing to work. It is the only branch of the military that isn't guaranteed pay during this Trump shutdown because, by a quirk of history, it is now part of the Department of Homeland Security, not the Pentagon. These Active-Duty Coast Guard members based in New Haven and New London and across the country are continuing to protect our Nation's security, continuing to rescue Americans at sea, continuing to interdict drugs that threaten our Nation, and they are going unpaid.

That is why a bipartisan group of Senators—and I want to thank Senators THUNE, CANTWELL, and others—have introduced legislation to pay them during this Trump shutdown and any other shutdown going forward. I call on the Senate leadership to immediately approve this bill and allow it for a vote. Our military members in the Coast Guard deserve better, but so do all of the homeowners of this Nation who are seeking mortgages and must put those efforts on hold, so do the community development block grant projects that create jobs and economic growth, and so do law enforcement, essential to our security, who are going untrained.

Food safety inspections have been suspended. Housing safety inspections, like the ones at Barbour Garden in Connecticut and Infield apartments, have stalled.

Breweries, like many in Connecticut—and I am hoping to visit a number tomorrow—are unable to deliver their products to market and onto store shelves.

The National Parks have been left unsupervised.

Last week, the Hartford Courant highlighted the story of Bryan Krampovitis. He is a resident of West Haven and an air traffic controller at Bradley International Airport. A number of traffic controllers are here in Washington, DC, and they will be outside this building later today. He is continuing the work, but he told the Hartford Courant:

I'm a single father of my daughter, and she relies on me to be her sole provider. I have a home and mortgage. It's a hard time to be in. I'm forced to continue to go to work or face the possibility of losing my job.

If the Federal Government is still closed at the time of his next scheduled pay, he will receive "a zero dollar paycheck."

Like him, so many of these Federal workers are living paycheck to paycheck, and they will be without that paycheck. The effect, though, will be on Americans as a whole.

The President continues to divide us with rhetoric that is distorted and divisive, with misleading, malign mendacity. I am reminded of the sign I saw on TV: "Stop truth decay." The President should stop truth decay as he visits the border today. He should recognize that there is no crisis, insecurity at the border; that it is manufactured by him. The idea that drugs are imported across the border is correct, but it is at the ports of entry. The idea that terrorists are coming across the border is factually absurd. In fact, the 3,700 figure the President broached has been completely debunked. The idea that the wall will be effective or practical has been abandoned by members of his own administration who have recognized that a wall from sea to shining sea is simply impossible and impractical.

So we are left with a vanity problem—an applause line in the President's campaign—that has become a wall to progress. It is a wall to progress only in the President's mind, as everybody in this body knows there is a path forward to reopen the government. That is what the American people want—to reopen the government, to adopt the bills that are necessary for these agencies to go back to work, and to reopen the Department of Homeland Security as well while we debate those disagreements we have and do our jobs.

The Congress must do its job and send to the President the bills that are necessary to reopen the government and save America from this manufactured, unnecessary, unacceptable crisis that has come to us and our country from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, many Federal workers in Nevada and

across this country will miss their first paychecks tomorrow due to this shutdown. Our President's govern-by-chaos approach has pulled the rug out from hundreds of thousands of Federal workers and contractors across the country who are currently furloughed or who are being forced to work without pay, including over 3,000 of them in my home State of Nevada. It is outrageous.

I have heard from many Federal workers in Nevada who didn't sign up to live in constant fear that their paychecks would be held for political gain. They didn't sign up to wonder if they will be able to pay their rent on time, cover childcare costs for their young children, or put food on the tables for their families. They certainly didn't sign up to be used as pawns in this President's political game. They signed up to serve the American people, and they deserve the certainty of a functioning government and steady paychecks. Instead, hard-working Nevadans are writing and calling me to say they are worried about paying their bills, supporting their children, and keeping up with their mortgage payments.

One Nevadan who is currently working without pay told me he and his colleagues are struggling to pay for the gas to drive to their unpaid jobs.

Another Nevadan is a mother who told me that her son, who is newly enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, is now facing eviction just 1 month after reporting for duty.

A Las Vegas government contractor who is working to help the Department of Justice reduce its immigration court case backlog told me how discouraged he and his colleagues are that this shutdown is hurting the very people who are trying to help fix our immigration system.

Nevada's veterans, park rangers, and TSA agents have also all contacted my office and asked for an end to this senseless shutdown so they can continue to provide for themselves and their families.

This is one of the major impacts on Nevada, but it is not the only major disruption we are seeing.

At our national parks and monuments, there is overflowing trash, which threatens the wildlife and public safety because the park rangers and maintenance staff have been furloughed.

In Nevada's Tribal communities, lapses in funding threaten to close the doors of health clinics, food pantries, and childcare centers.

The Small Business Administration has stopped processing loans that help Nevada's small businesses and job creators thrive. Over 7,850 Nevada seniors who are enrolled in nutritional food programs and over 437,000 Nevadans who receive SNAP benefits are at risk of losing access to the food assistance that keeps them and their families healthy.

Real people, families, and communities are hurting. These are the people

who do an honest day's work. They do an honest day's work, and they expect steady paychecks and a government to be led by a President who cares about their needs and their families' safety.

The solution to this is simple. Reopen the government and stop holding Federal workers hostage for political gain. They are not leverage. These are hard-working people who are committed to going to work every single day, if that is what they are told to do, to make sure our services run and that we are protected, for they are standing guard even though they are not getting paid.

As we go on about our day, I ask every single one of us, if you see them, to thank them. They are actually going to work and are not getting paid and can't pay their rent. For those who are furloughed and staying home, they are still struggling in the same way.

That is why I support what my colleagues have done in introducing legislation that provides the backpay that will be necessary to protect these families and make sure they get paid, legislation so we may look out for them and ensure that their credit does not get dinged because of a government shutdown they had no control over. Don't forget, there are going to be thousands of workers out there who will never get paid because they are contract workers, and we should be doing everything in this Congress to ensure that they are getting the support they need. People are having to look for second jobs, and some can't even look for second jobs because the Federal jobs they have don't even allow them to look for second jobs.

This is outrageous. This whole process is outrageous. There is a simple answer to all of this, and we know it. It is doing our jobs. I came to this Congress as a U.S. Senator. I believe in article I. I believe we are a coequal branch of government. We should not be abdicating to the executive branch. We should be doing our jobs. We know we can pass legislation that opens this government. We have already done it. We did it in the last session of Congress. There are many, in a bipartisan way, who want to do this. Let's just do our jobs. Let's show the rest of the country that this branch of government can govern and protect everyone.

It is very simple because I know, if we were to get together, pass these bills, and send them over to the President, then he would make his decision. If he were to decide to veto it, then we would override that veto. That is the process. That is the process our Founders and our Framers set up so no one branch of government could control. I hate to see the leadership here abdicating our role to another branch of government.

It is time for us to come together. Let's open this government. Let's do it now, and let's show these Federal workers they are not political pawns, that they are not leverage. Let's show them the respect and dignity they deserve.



I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the ways in which this pointless shutdown has done real harm to American workers and families. I appreciate the words of my colleague from Nevada as she explained how devastating this has been in her State.

We are now in day 20, and the stories are flooding in, in the calls to my office, as to how this political gamesmanship from the White House is harming the American people.

The Washington Post estimates that 6,100 Federal workers in Minnesota have been affected by the shutdown. This includes 1,700 who work for the Department of Agriculture—right when the farm bill has passed. We have many small dairy farmers in Minnesota for whom we had worked so hard to get this bill passed. Now they need to understand it, and they need to figure out what programs to sign up for, but they have no one to talk to. These aren't big milking operations. These are places with a couple of dozen cows, with 50 cows, and they have no one to talk to. As I said, the Washington Post has cited 6,100 Federal workers. Some of these employees are furloughed and are forced to stay away from work. Others are forced to work without pay. Here are a few of their stories.

Sandy Parr works as a food service supervisor and nurse at the Federal Medical Center Rochester in Rochester, MN. She has been asked to work 60-hour shifts during the shutdown and to fill in for dozens of absent colleagues—all without being paid. She told one of our newspapers that she may soon be forced to choose between groceries and medication for her 14-year-old son who has autism.

Celia Hahn is a transportation security officer at our airport, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. It is a major airport, a hub. She told our local newspaper that she has canceled her plans to sign up her twin 9-year-old boys for a soccer clinic. If the shutdown drags on, she will have to call her mortgage lender to negotiate payments, which is a step many of her colleagues have already had to take.

It goes from the small—a soccer signup that might not seem that important, but anyone who is a parent knows it is a really important thing for kids—to the big, are you going to be able to afford your house? Then it goes to the even bigger as you look at a major airport that has lines and people who are working without pay and where you have law enforcement on the frontline, whether it is Homeland Security or whether they are FBI agents who are going to be working without pay.

Of course, my State is by no means unique in being hurt by this shutdown. I have heard the stories from so many of my colleagues.

Senator Kaine told us about Alan, a veteran and civil servant in Yorktown.

He has had to work without pay since the shutdown began. His emergency savings are exhausted, and he is behind in his bills.

Senator DURBIN of Illinois talked about a Transportation Security Administration worker, a TSA worker, who fears the impact of missing a mortgage or a rent payment. The man told the Senator that if he can't make one of those payments on time, it will hurt his credit rating, which could affect the interest rates he will pay on loans and mortgages for the rest of his life.

These are real people with real-world problems.

Senator HEINRICH of New Mexico told the story of Nicholas, a firefighter. If the shutdown isn't resolved, he told the Senator, he will not be able to support his family.

On Tuesday night, I joined Senator SHAHEEN, who talked about how furloughs have slowed down the work at the Office of National Drug Control Policy and about how the continued delays in funding will pull the rug out from first responders who rely on this funding.

Senator WARNER of Virginia talked about the shutdown's impact on Federal contractors, including custodians, cafeteria workers, and security guards who work as Federal contractors who will never see backpay for the shutdown unless we do something about it.

This is what is happening.

The public IRS office is closed. That is in my State. A woman is trying to make a payment for taxes due and is concerned about the interest and penalties because of the time it will take to process her payment by mail.

The Neighborhood Development Center in St. Paul, MN, a community lender, has two projects awaiting construction funding from the SBA, the Small Business Administration. That is shutdown.

A young man needs his tax transcripts for a late enrollment in college. With the IRS not providing this service, he will not be able to attend the first day of his classes.

A woman who was the victim of identity theft in my State was trying to report it to the IRS but to no avail.

These are basic services that our constituents are being forced to go without. These are promises we made to our constituents and to the men and women who serve the public as Federal employees. It is time for the President to end this pointless shutdown and reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes today about America's foreign policy, I want to talk about interests, and I want to talk about values.

As you know, Congress is about to consider our foreign policy priorities in the Middle East. As we do that, I want

to draw attention to some of our most vital allies in the Middle East. These allies have stood by America and we have stood by them for decades, through thick and thin. As a result, American interests in the Middle East have been protected, and their people have been protected as well. I am talking about the Syrian Kurds. I am talking about Israel. I am talking about Jordan.

In my judgment, America must now stand by the Syrian Kurds, Israel, and Jordan—all of whom have paid a heavy price for the destabilization in Syria over the past 5 years—to make sure that this fight stays won.

Once the Senate turns our attention to S. 1—and we will eventually—I plan to offer an amendment to S. 1 that will allow the U.S. military to defend the Kurds in Syria, if need be. It would give the President the authority to use the U.S. Armed Forces as he deems fit to keep our promise and to protect our allies. That is all my amendment would do. It wouldn't require anything, but it would give the President of the United States the authority to protect one of our allies in the Middle East—the Syrian Kurds—because, after all, the Kurds contributed mightily to the fight against ISIS, and we owe them. We owe them some peace of mind as we draw down our presence in the region.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces—better known as SDF—have been another set of boots on the ground in our fight against ISIS. In the words of former Secretary Mattis, Kurdish fighters “shredded” ISIS. We couldn't have done it without them. With the help of coalition supplies, weapons, and airstrikes, the SDF—the Syrian Kurds—have been able to recapture large parts of both northern Syria and eastern Syria from ISIS's iron grip. That is just a fact. Four years ago, there were nearly 100,000 ISIS fighters. Thanks to our Kurdish allies and others, including American blood and treasure, those numbers have now dwindled to just 5,000.

Today, ISIS has surrendered 99 percent of its territory. Let me say that again. Today, ISIS has surrendered 99 percent of its territory, including its former capital of Raqqa. To put that accomplishment in perspective, in January 2015, ISIS controlled more than 34,000 square miles of Syria and Iraq. Thirty-four thousand square miles of Syria and Iraq was ISIS-controlled territory. The world looks a lot different today. Less than 3 weeks ago, the so-called caliphate—the ISIS caliphate—withdraw from their last major urban stronghold in Syria. They are now being held to a small sliver of territory on the eastern border with Iraq, near the Euphrates River.

I think it is plain to see that the Syrian Kurds have been indispensable in our fight against the Islamic State. Today, the SDF—the Syrian Kurds—control nearly a quarter of Syria. That land no longer belongs to ISIS. That land is being lived in peacefully by the

Syrian Kurds. It doesn't belong to Russia, and it doesn't belong to Iran. It is land where the Kurds know they will be free from persecution and slaughter.

There are 30 million Kurds in the world, as the Presiding Officer well knows. They are living in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. In each country, the Syrian Kurds have been subjected to discrimination, massacres, forced relocation, and countless other human rights violations.

The Kurdish people are one of the largest, if not the largest ethnic minority in the world that doesn't have a state or a country to call its own. After World War I, when Western interests carved up the Middle East, the Kurds were left without a state, despite President Woodrow Wilson's argument that this would be—and indeed is—unfair.

The truth is that the Kurds in the world today, no matter where they are, are not completely safe anywhere. The Turkish Defense Minister made that clear just this last December when he said that when the time comes—when the time comes, the Turkish Defense Minister said, the Kurds “will be buried in the ditches they dug. No one should doubt this.” That is a direct quote.

Just last week, Secretary of State Pompeo said that “ensuring that the Turks don't slaughter the Kurds [and] the protection of religious minorities there in Syria” are “still part of the American mission set.” Secretary Pompeo is a wise man.

Our troops there in the region who stand beside our Kurdish friends do more than simply offer supplies and logistical support to the Kurds; they are a visible sign of our solidarity in the fight against Islamic terrorism. Without assurances of our support, the Kurds will be left to fend for themselves. Without the Kurds, we cannot be certain who will step in to fill the power vacuum in the areas of Syria that they currently control. We just cannot. We can only guess, and the answers aren't good.

The threat of U.S. military force has been a major deterrent for the reemergence of jihadists like ISIS and al-Qaida. We know that. Our presence has held back Assad, Turkey, Russia, and Iran from gaining stronger footholds in the area. If the Kurds are vulnerable to attack from Turkey or Syrian rebels, I fear they may turn to our enemies for protection. Even if the Kurds didn't, they can't fight off Turkish troops and pursue the remnants of ISIS at the same time. For America to abandon the Kurds in Syria now would compromise the security of our allies, would compromise the security of Israel and Jordan, and would risk exposing the region to more turmoil.

I think it was the late, great Ambassador George Kennan, writing, of course, during the Cold War, who said: “If the policies and actions of the U.S. government are to be made to conform to moral standards”—not self-interest, to moral standards—“those standards

are going to have to be America's own, founded on traditional American principles of justice and propriety.” The Ambassador was correct.

As I read his words, as I have read his words, and as I have studied his words, I thought long and hard about what he meant by “American principles of justice and propriety.” If justice is getting what you deserve, as C.S. Lewis said, and propriety is doing what is right, as I think most of us believe, then we should give the President the authority to protect the Kurdish people. That is what my amendment would do. We have to do it because they are our friends. We also have to do it because it is the right thing to do for America's interests and for the Middle East peace process.

Once we take up the bill, I want to urge my colleagues in the Senate to consider my amendment and to help me make sure that American foreign policy continues to have that important moral component. Standing with our friends in the face of evil despots and dictators is just as important today as it was during the Cold War.

I understand President Trump's decision with respect to Syria. I understand his concern about mission creep. I understand his concern about America's failure in our efforts at nation building. I think all of the American people are frustrated with the Middle East. All of us want a prosperous America, but all of us in America want a prosperous world. And we have been disappointed time and again by totalitarian governments in the Middle East.

I don't want any of my remarks today to be construed as critical of the President's decision with respect to Syria. Frankly, I don't know whether he is right. I am still listening to both sides. I know this: American foreign policy never has been and never should be based solely on self-interest. Certainly, self-interest is part of it, but American foreign policy also has to have a moral component. Morality in this case dictates that if we withdraw from Syria, we do not allow our Kurdish allies in Syria to be butchered and gutted like a fish.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, today and for the last 19 days, men and women across the country are being hurt by a government shutdown that President Trump said he was proud to cause for the wall. I rise today on behalf of Minnesotans, on behalf of more than 4,790 hard-working Federal employees and low-wage contractors going without pay in Minnesota right

now, and I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers of our country who just want the government to work for them.

Since I became a Senator, just a little over a year ago, the government has been closed three times over the President's obsession with building an expensive, ineffective wall on our southern border. I am all for border security, but we need to focus on real solutions, not symbols.

So let us start with the facts. In my home State of Minnesota, the Federal Government employs about 32,000 people as food safety inspectors, prison guards, postal workers, and more. Of this total number, the Center for American Progress estimates that 4,790 people are impacted by the shutdown today in Minnesota and are furloughed or working without pay. Over 750 of these workers have already filed for unemployment benefits, and hundreds more are being forced to make tough decisions about how to cover basic expenses, feed their children, and take care of their families.

A couple of days ago, I asked Minnesotans how they are being hurt by this shutdown because I wanted to understand how this is affecting people in their everyday lives. In just the last 48 hours, I have heard from Minnesota farmers who can't cash checks because the Farm Service Agency offices are shut down and Tribal law enforcement officers who are working without pay.

I have heard from air traffic controllers in Minnesota who came by my office earlier this week with dozens of handwritten letters full of stories. The letters I am about to read come from these air traffic controllers, and I really want to thank them for sharing their stories. These are public servants who have dedicated their careers to making our airports safe.

Tomorrow, January 11, marks the first day when these folks—Americans who show up at work every day to protect us—will miss their first paycheck. What is going to happen to these families? How will they be able to cover their credit card bills, their childcare payments, their mortgages? These are the questions that are keeping them up at night.

I wanted to share some of their stories with you today so that those of us in Congress and the President can keep these people uppermost in our minds and the human impact of what is a wasteful and increasingly harmful shutdown.

The first story comes from Michael, in Rochester, MN. Michael writes:

My wife stays at home to care for our 3 year old daughter. She is also currently obtaining a master's degree in education so she can be a teacher when our daughter finally goes to school.

I am the sole income in my home. Needless to say, the prospect of not receiving a paycheck in a week has us wondering how we will make mortgage payments, buy food, etc. We are more fortunate than some of my co-workers, however. Many of them are wondering how they will pay for day care while they continue to go to work as unpaid, essential employees.

The next letter is from Jonathan, from Lino Lakes, MN. This is what Jonathan wrote:

For the last two weeks, air traffic controllers have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. But we don't know when we will receive our next paycheck. My wife is due with our fourth child in two weeks and this uncertainty only adds to an already stressful situation.

Here is another one from Mike, from Minnetonka, MN. He is describing the impact of the shutdown on his family's future.

I am a father to twin four-year-old boys (Jax and Finn) and had to close their college fund account in order to pay bills through the end of the month. The shutdown has also prevented me from training and certifying on my last few positions to receive a \$5,000 pay raise. These hardships are going to affect my family for years to come. The replenishment of my boys' college fund alone could take years as a single income family.

Mike goes on to say:

This is going to have a lasting negative impact on me and my family. Please help stop the shutdown to lessen the already great impact it has had on me and my family. My kids' future and our current financial hardship depends on it.

Next is Christopher, from Dundas, MN. He writes:

As a cancer survivor, I have a huge stack of medical bills on structured and negotiated payments. My colleagues and I have suffered the sudden loss of our income due to this shut down. It will be very hard to meet all of my financial obligations.

Finally, I want to share this really heartbreaking note that I received from a brand-new father, Joe, from Lakeville, MN. Joe enclosed two photos of his beautiful brand-new baby boy, Oliver. Here is a picture of Oliver. This is the picture Joe sent to me. This is what he wrote:

This is a picture of my son, Oliver. He was born on New Year's Eve, 10 weeks early. The only local hospital to take babies born before 32 weeks is not in network for our insurance. I cannot change our insurance with this qualifying life event because those government services are closed due to the shutdown.

Further, because there is no paid leave during a shutdown, I am spending my days in the NICU on unpaid furlough status. I don't know when I'll be able to change my insurance, or when I'll get paid again. I take solace in what matters most: Oliver is getting a little stronger and a little closer to home every day.

Joe closed by saying:

Please do what you can to reopen the government and leave us with one less worry.

President Trump and my Republican colleagues, listen to these stories and think about the consequences of this reckless and increasingly harmful shutdown.

The Senate could put an end to this right now. We could take up and pass the bipartisan bills passed by the House—bills that have already passed the Senate, bills that would help baby Oliver and his dad Joe and the hundreds of thousands of other people around the country who never asked and don't deserve to be pawns in this fight. It is our job to do this.

Colleagues, we can do this. I don't just sit in this Chamber and say whether my vote is what the President wants me to do. I think about what Minnesotans want me to do. We must reopen government.

I know, colleagues, that each of you has thousands of families with stories like this in your State and I know that you are hearing them. Let's resolve this. Let's end this shutdown now and not let American families down.

To the Minnesotans who are speaking up and sharing your stories, I want to thank you, and I want to tell you to keep it up. You deserve to be heard by our President, and you deserve a government that works for you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday President Trump and Republican leaders once again tried to sit down with Democrats to break the impasse over border security funding and fully reopen the government. Yet, again, Democrats proved unwilling to offer any serious solution or agree to work with the President in any way.

When the President asked Speaker PELOSI yesterday if she would be willing to commit to funding the border wall if the government was reopened, she said no—no.

Democrats are saying that we need to end this partial shutdown and reopen the Federal Government. I completely agree with that, but it is Democrats who are standing in the way of that happening. Instead of seriously trying to resolve this shutdown, they are holding show votes in the House and trying to score political points.

The administration made an offer on Sunday. Yet 4 days later, Democrats have yet to respond. If they really want to reopen the government, they will sit down and negotiate in good faith with the President to arrive at a solution that both parties can support and that the President will sign.

I have to ask: When did securing our borders become immoral?

It used to be that Members of both parties recognized that border security was a basic obligation of our government and that we had a duty to ensure that our borders were protected and that dangerous individuals or goods were not entering our country, but apparently—apparently—Democrats don't agree with that anymore.

According to Speaker PELOSI, building barriers to protect our border is "immoral." That is right—"immoral." According to the Speaker of the House, protecting our border with barriers to prevent illegal entry is "immoral."

Contrary to what Democrats would like people to believe, border security isn't an issue dreamed up by hard-hearted Republicans to oppress various groups of people. Border security is a national security imperative—something that both parties recognized, until recently. No country can be secure if dangerous individuals can creep

across its borders unchecked and unobserved.

Democrats talk about border barriers as if they are meant to prevent anyone from entering our country. That is just false. America is a land of immigrants, and we will always welcome new faces to America with open arms. In fact, I, like many others in this Chamber, am the grandson of immigrants who came through Ellis Island. My grandparents obviously came and settled in South Dakota, but we have to make sure that individuals who are coming to this country are coming here legally and that we know who they are and why they are coming. We do that by enforcing our laws and by securing our borders—with physical barriers, Border Patrol agents, and technology—so that individuals can't cross our borders illegally and undetected.

Leaving our borders open to any criminal, drug dealer, or human trafficker who wants to sneak across isn't compassion. It is an abdication of our responsibility.

Right now, we are facing a security and humanitarian crisis along our border. Tens of thousands of individuals try to cross our southern border illegally each month. That is a serious security problem. It is also a humanitarian problem. Individuals attempting the journey to come here illegally are vulnerable to exploitation, to illness, and to abuse. One out of every three women attempting the journey to the United States is sexually assaulted. A staggering 70 percent of individuals become victims of violence along their way. Illness and other medical issues are a serious problem. By failing to discourage illegal immigration, we are perpetuating this humanitarian crisis.

The inadequate state of our border security—both around barriers and through our ports of entry—also allows other problems to flourish, like the flow of illegal drugs pouring into the country. Every week in this country, 300 Americans die from heroin. Ninety percent of the heroin supply—90 percent—flows across our southern border.

Democrats will say it doesn't come across, that it comes through ports of entry. A lot of it does come through ports of entry—that is part of our borders—and the President in his proposal has advanced measures that would also deal with those drugs coming through our ports of entry. But the fact of the matter is, we have to secure our border, and that requires a whole range of measures as a part of that solution.

Democrats didn't always think that securing our borders was immoral. In fact, in 2006, the Democratic leader and the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee voted for legislation to authorize a border fence. They were joined in their vote by then-Senator Biden, then-Senator Clinton, and then-Senator Obama. In 2013, every Senate Democrat, bar none, supported legislation requiring the completion of a 700-mile fence along our southern border. This legislation would have

provided \$46 billion for border security and \$8 billion specifically for a physical barrier.

As recently as last February, nearly every Senate Democrat—46 out of 49—supported \$25 billion for border security—just last February.

In 2009, the Senate Democratic leader said in a speech: “Any immigration solution must recognize that we must do as much as we can to gain operational control of our borders as soon as possible.”

Let me repeat that. In 2009, the Democratic leader said: “Any immigration solution must recognize that we must do as much as we can to gain control of our borders as soon as possible.”

Then he went on to discuss progress that had been made on our border security between 2005 and 2009, including “construction of 630 miles of border fence that create a significant barrier to illegal immigration on our southern land border.”

That is right. In 2009, the Democratic leader not only didn’t oppose border fences; he was praising them for their effectiveness.

So what has changed? The need to secure our borders certainly hasn’t changed. Everybody says: Is it a crisis or isn’t it a crisis? I would say that having 300 people a day dying from heroin in this country is a crisis, particularly given the fact that 90 percent of that heroin is coming across our southern border. That strikes me as a crisis.

The President has changed, and that, more than anything else, is the thing that has changed the minds of a lot of Democrats in the Senate because we used to have a President Democrats like; now we have one they don’t like and, in many cases, they are openly hostile to.

For Democrats opposing this President and catering to the far-left, anti-border-security wing of their party seem to be more important than addressing the security and humanitarian crisis we are facing at our border.

I venture to say that deep down, a lot of Democrats still realize we need to secure our borders. I think many realize how important the physical structure—some sort of barrier—is in making sure that the border is secure. Certainly, those who protect our border would tell you that, and certainly those who have observed what has happened over the past 20 or 30 years—a border fence has been built in certain areas of our southern border—would tell you that has been very effective.

I think it is important for us to listen to the experts and allow the opinions of the experts to shape the policies we put in place. I think what the experts have been telling us is that, yes, we need a comprehensive solution, one that includes a physical barrier, one that includes technology, one that includes manpower—all of which this President, his team, have been willing to negotiate but none of which the Democrats in the Senate or the House have been willing to sit down at the table and be a partner in working out.

With their partial shutdown now into its 20th day, I hope they will soon end this political theater and fulfill their obligations to keep Americans safe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I thank the Presiding Officer for recognition.

Madam President, look, we have heard a lot about the shutdown today. We have heard a lot about the impacts on families and on businesses and on our society in general. We heard a speech recently on the floor of the Senate on how Democrats don’t want border security, which cannot be further from the truth.

The fact is, last year, we appropriated \$21 billion for border security. That was in 2017. For 2018, it was \$21.5 billion. The truth is, everybody I know of who serves in this body, whether a Democrat or Republican, wants to make sure our borders are secure.

Unfortunately, the President—or fortunately, however you want to look at it—came in with his budget request last year to the Homeland Security Subcommittee of Appropriations, on which I serve as ranking member, and asked for \$1.6 billion for a wall. Guess what that subcommittee did, and guess what the Appropriations Committee did. We gave him \$1.6 billion for that wall. The Senate didn’t pass that bill, I might add. Sometime later, the President came in and said: No, I want \$5 billion for a wall. And now it is \$5.7 billion for a wall.

We asked for a report on how this money was going to be spent, and they sent us a report on how the \$1.6 billion was going to be spent, with no comparative analysis on how technology or manpower or anything else to secure that border might work more beneficially to keep our borders secure and be more cost-effective for the American taxpayer.

What did the President do? Twenty-five times he said: I am going to shut down the government.

Guess what. The government is shut down. It doesn’t take a genius to do that. We have heard the stories—and they will continue, especially after tomorrow when working folks will not get their paycheck—of the impacts on this country, on average Americans, who could lose their homes, their autos, not be able to send their kids to school, and not be able to afford healthcare. The list goes on and on.

I ask: Is this how you make America great again? Is this how it is done? It is not working.

Senator CARDIN came to the floor a bit ago, and he said: I want to put up not show bills; I want to put up Republican bills that this body has already passed and that the House passed this last week so that the Senate would do their job and hopefully reopen the government. I think there are enough votes to do it. I think there are enough votes to override a veto.

The majority leader’s response was: No, we are not going to do this; we want to take up a bill on Israel.

I am telling you, I am a big supporter of Israel, but I took an oath of office to protect this country first, and we are turning our back on this country.

We can continue to have the debate about the best way to secure the border, but it should not be done by holding the American people hostage. It should be done by having a debate in this body—the most deliberative body in the world, I was told before I got here. I got to serve with great Senators, got to serve with Robert C. Byrd, Richard Lugar, Kennedy, and Baucus. The list goes on and on. We don’t debate. We don’t even vote. In fact, we don’t even live up to the Constitution’s goals for us, its requirements for us—whatever you want to call them.

We are a coequal branch of government. We shouldn’t be allowing—as Senator DURBIN said, asking for a permission slip from the President to be able to do our business. Bring the bills to the floor to open this government, and vote on it. If they go down, they go down. I think they will pass. If the President vetoes them, bring them back for a veto override. It is as simple as that.

I wonder what the forefathers would think today if they saw this body—a shell of its former self. And it is not due to the rules; it is due to the fact that we have leadership that will not live up to the obligation of this body as set up to begin with.

We have work to do here. We have a lot of work to do, and that work starts with opening the Government of the United States. If we don’t do it or if we say we are only going to do it with permission from the President, then we all ought to hold our heads in shame.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, we are in day 20 of a government shutdown. It is exceptionally avoidable, but it is also exceptionally painful and distracting to the American people.

At the USDA, the Farm Service Agency loans have stopped.

TSA employees are working without pay. If we can’t get this resolved by tomorrow, they will miss a paycheck, but they will still be at work.

Home lending programs have halted.

For the FAA, new air traffic controllers are not being trained. We still have air traffic controllers in the tower who are working now—by tomorrow, without pay coming in—but new training has stopped. That means a year from now, when we need to have those new air traffic controllers take their spot in that tower, there won’t be someone in that tower because we have halted the training at this point.

IRS taxpayer advocate services are closed.

Indian Health Service is being stretched.

At the Bureau of Indian Affairs, most employees have been furloughed.

The Department of Commerce and many others have been affected.

While this doesn't affect most Agencies in the Federal Government, it affects a lot, and it affects real lives and real people. Let me give some examples from just my State of Oklahoma.

There is a technology company in Tulsa that will have to begin furloughing employees because it is a contractor for the Federal workforce.

Those folks who are selling their cattle right now and who have a relationship with Farm Service can't cash that check because they can't get a second cosigner for the check, and that definitely affects them.

A Federal worker contacted us and said that she is a contractor, and as of a couple days from now, she is not going to be able to pay her son's tuition so he can go back to college, because it will be too far a stretch.

The food banks in my State have already started stocking up and reaching out to Federal employees who may not get a check starting tomorrow and may be stretched and need some additional assistance, many of them for the first time ever.

We have a family in the Norman area, south of Oklahoma City, who typically handles the contract for housing for students who are coming to the FAA, to the academy. Well, obviously those academy students have all gone home, and they are losing \$5,000 a week due to the shutdown and the lack of housing for those folks. And it is not just empty facilities; employees who are contractors there are now being furloughed.

See, this affects real lives and real people. This was an exceptionally avoidable shutdown. Months and months ago, the President of the United States announced publicly and repetitively that he was not going to sign a funding bill at the end of the year that does not add additional border security. Over and over again, in public speeches and in private conversations on this Hill, the President repeated over and over: I am not going to sign a funding bill unless it adds additional border security.

For some reason, half of this Hill ignored it and said: He is just kidding. He is not just kidding. He sees the issue of border security—as I do, by the way, as well—as being a serious issue that has been talked about for decades but has not been addressed. Now all of these families are being impacted because half of this Hill said they thought the President was kidding.

We should be able to do basic border security. This used to not be a partisan issue. It was just a decade ago that this body voted to add 650 miles of additional fencing along the border between Mexico and the United States

because at that time, a decade ago, this body said: There is a serious issue with border security. We should add fencing to the border.

Outspoken liberals like Senator Clinton and Senator Obama voted to add fencing to the border in 2006 and said that is the right thing to do. But suddenly now, a decade and a couple years later, it is a partisan issue and we can't allow President Trump to have additional fencing. It seems very odd to me. This seems like a personal attack on the President rather than a realization of where we have been as a country for a long time. We should have basic border security.

For the President to be actually very malleable on this—shockingly so, to some people—he stepped out and said: I want \$5.7 billion for a wall or for fencing or for steel barriers or whatever you want to call it. We need some additional barriers on it.

To negotiate during the Christmas time period and to be stuck because the White House makes an offer to Senator SCHUMER, and Senator SCHUMER's response apparently was, we will wait to negotiate this after NANCY PELOSI becomes speaker—so for 10 days we sat with no negotiations going because we had to wait until there was a Speaker PELOSI.

Now Speaker PELOSI steps up and says: We are going to do nothing on this. And the President says: No, we need to do something. And suddenly something that the American people saw as obvious—why wouldn't we do basic things for border security—has suddenly become political and controversial.

The President, even in his speaking earlier this week from the Oval Office, started by saying we should do additional technology at the border. I fully agree. In fact, just in the last 2 years, the Department of Homeland Security has added 31 new fixed surveillance tower units to the southern border, has added 50 mobile surveillance systems to the southern border, and has added ground sensors and tunnel detection capabilities to the southern border. Those are all technology aspects of helping the southern border. The President stepped up and said we need to do more in that area.

He said we need to add additional agents, which, again, has not been a partisan issue in the past.

He said we need to add additional immigration judges, which, again, has not been controversial. We have 800,000 people waiting in immigration courts to get due process right now. Many of them will wait 3 years or more just to get to a court. That is because we have too few judges handling the many immigration cases that are out there. It should be common sense to say "Let's add additional judges so people can get to due process faster," but suddenly that has become controversial.

The President said we need to add a steel barrier. Now, I am fully aware he has talked about a wall in the past, and

he said wall, wall, wall over and over, and some people have this picture that it is going to be the Berlin Wall, complete with graffiti on the side of it. That is not what DHS is putting up, nor what they have put up. They put up these big steel slats because the Customs and Border Patrol folks don't want a solid wall. They need to be able to see through it to see whether there is a threat coming to them.

Has it made a difference? It has absolutely made a difference. Some of my team were down at the border in San Diego just a month ago. They visited with the Customs and Border Patrol folks there. They stated that the old fencing that is there—and there is some very old fencing in that area—that old fencing had more than a dozen penetrations through it a day—a day. It was meaningless. But the new fencing that they are putting up, these big steel slats, that steel barrier has one person a month. So it moved from 10 to 12 a day to 1 a month. That is a pretty big difference. That is helping manage our border. That is why fencing actually does work.

I am fully aware of folks saying, if you put up a 30-foot fence you get a 31-foot ladder, but what happens is, when you have to climb a 31-foot ladder, you have to slow down in the process, and it gives time for the Border Patrol to be able to interdict. That is what a fence is about, to say: You can't cross here easily. You have to slow down through the process—and we can interdict folks.

This is a completely avoidable and, quite frankly, very recognizable problem. We should not have a government shutdown happening right now. Interestingly enough, some of my Democratic colleagues I have spoken with over the last 2 days were quietly whispering in these hallways: I hope the President will just declare a national emergency so the fencing can get built, and we can say we fought it, rather than actually bringing a piece of legislation here to solve it.

There are real families and real lives getting affected by this. Let's resolve this. This is not a big number. This is not a complicated issue. We can come to common agreement on basic border security to protect our communities and our cities. We should have the ability for individuals to come into the United States to work. We have always been that way.

Interestingly enough, I remind people all the time that the 5,000 people coming from the migrant caravan from Honduras are camped out 250 yards from the largest legal border crossing in the world, the San Ysidro crossing. We have 5,000 people who are trying to illegally cross the border literally 250 yards from where 100,000 people a day cross legally every single day, but the cameras are all focused on the 5,000 people trying to cross illegally, not turning the camera 90 degrees to focus in on the 100,000 people a day who filled out the forms and did it right and are

coming into our country. We are still a country with open immigration, and we should be; we just ask people to do it the right way. I don't think it is that unreasonable.

So how do we get out of this? The most basic way to get out of this is just to do what we talked about for months—let's sit down and figure out how to do border security—just the simple process of that. Some of my colleagues have said the President needs to open the government, and then we will talk about border security. That will be the same argument we have had for a couple of years now, where they say: Some other time, some another time. The President said, after months and months, this is the time to talk about this. So let's resolve it as quickly as we possibly can.

Let's not complicate it. I have heard people say: Let's add all these additional things to the conversation and make the deal bigger. Making the deal bigger just slows down the process even more. Federal employees and all these families need answers right now. Let's not continue to try to make this a bigger and bigger argument that stretches out longer and longer in debate. Let's solve the issue we have in front of us right now and keep debating the other issues.

Finally, let's get a permanent resolution to this issue of government shutdowns. It has been interesting to me to see the media comparing this shutdown to the one that happened during the Jimmy Carter Presidency or the Clinton Presidency or the three that happened during the Reagan Presidency or those that happened in the Bush Presidency. This is a bad habit Congress is in. There were 16 of us who met this last year, from April all the way through December—eight Democrats and eight Republicans, half from the House and half from the Senate—to try to resolve the budget process. Many of us spoke up, myself included, over and over again, saying that this is a broken budgeting process, saying we have to end the government shutdowns. By the time we got to the middle of December, that group of 16 could not come to a resolution to address this problem. Well, how about now? Are we willing to admit now that there is a problem with budgeting?

Here was one of the solutions I brought to that committee. I think it is straightforward. The simple solution is, if you get to the end of the budget year and if we don't have things resolved at that point, go into a continuing resolution; that is, continue to fund the government, hold the Agencies and employees harmless, but Members of Congress have to stay in Washington, DC, and the Cabinet and the White House have to stay in Washington, DC—no travel for anyone. We have to be here.

If you want to hit Members of Congress where it hurts, don't let anyone go home for the weekend to see their families. We have families we want to

see, too, but we shouldn't be able to walk away when there is still work to be done. The greatest pressure point we can have in this body is that we would have to stay in continuous session until the negotiations are finished. Make everyone stay here.

That may sound overly simplistic, but when I bring that up to other Members of Congress, they are like: Whoa. That is too much. Really? Everyone needs to stay here, keep the negotiations—from the House, the Senate, the Cabinet of the White House, and the White House staff itself.

The second measure we can take is, each week, through any kind of fight that goes on to get the budgeting done, cut everyone's budget in the House, Senate, and White House's operating budget 5 percent that week. Now, again, holding all the Agencies harmless, but for those who are doing the negotiations, they start feeling the pressure. Not only can you not travel, you can't see your families. You have to stay in continuous session, but your budget is getting cut every week by 5 percent, each week until it gets resolved. Again, the pressure is on the people it should be on, holding harmless the American people who aren't in the middle of this fight in the process. There are ways to solve this—simple, commonsense ways—and I will continue to bring those up again and again because when this shutdown is complete, there will be a fight over another one coming. In the meantime, we need to try to end this loop we are in that destabilizes our system.

Let's do border security. Let's not fight over, "OK. Let's open up the government, and we will talk about it later." Everyone knows that really will not happen. Everyone knows that game. Let's resolve what all the American people know needs to be resolved—basic, functional, real commonsense security, not putting up a big wall across the whole border. No one wants to see a 2,000-mile-long wall. It is not even needed, but in areas where there is a city on both sides of the border, and you literally cross the border within seconds unless there is a barrier there, it makes sense to have a barrier in those locations. It makes sense to put technology in other areas to be able to monitor folks who are illegally crossing the border in other areas. We can do this in a commonsense way. We can do this quickly. Let's get it resolved.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 1

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, in a few minutes here—in 45 minutes or so—the

Senate is going to vote to decide whether we want to begin debate on the bill that is before us, S. 1, Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019. I remind everybody of why we began with this bill.

I don't know what the number is, but I would say the overwhelming majority of the Members of the Senate did not agree when the President decided to pull us out of Syria for various different reasons. Everybody was asking us: Well, why don't you guys do something about it? As you know, it is difficult. The Congress cannot order the President to take military action. It can authorize it, it can fund it, and it can defund it, but it cannot compel it. That is the role of the Commander in Chief. There are some things we can do. However, because there are things we were concerned about with his decision, there are things we can do to sort of deal with the consequences of what, I believe, would be a mistake, and this bill endeavors to do that.

We went through and said: Let's find some bills that would help our allies in the region—Israel, Jordan—and that deal with the human rights catastrophe in Syria. Let's find things that are bipartisan and have widespread support so that we are not starting with something controversial. Then let's put it all together in one bill so that the country will be able to see that the Senate is engaged in the foreign policy of this country and is acting out its constitutional role as a check and balance on the Executive.

That is what we did. No good deed goes unpunished, though, because as that bill was filed, apparently, the Democratic leader and others in the leadership asked their Members to vote against even beginning debate on a bill that an overwhelming number of them supported, that a majority of the Democrats supported. They asked them to vote not to proceed on the bill, and the argument is because of the government shutdown.

I still don't know how it makes any sense to respond to a government shutdown by shutting down the Senate. In essence, why did we even come up here this week? It appears they are not making any progress on the negotiations, and we are not moving on any bills or legislation. I don't know if it gives people any comfort to know that at least the Senate is shut down too. I don't know how that fixes the government shutdown situation. This should be a place that can walk and chew gum at the same time, meaning a place that works on solving and ending this shutdown, which is bad for everybody, that works on securing our borders, which is something we need to do for our country, but that also works on dealing with something like this, especially as timely as the decision is that was just made last month and the threats that are facing our allies in the region. That is what this bill is about.

We are going to have another vote here for the second time this week. So

that everybody understands, this vote is not even in favor of or against the bill; it is just to the question of whether we can start debate on this bill. I hope a few more Democrats will join us so that we can get the 60 votes we need just to begin debating the bill. If you still want to make your point at the end of the day, then go ahead and vote against it or whatever. I hope you don't, but let's at least begin debate on it. We will see what happens here in about 30 minutes. My sense is that we still won't have the votes to do that, and it is unfortunate.

I do want to address two things that have been brought up with regard to this bill—one thing that has been brought up and one element of the bill that I hope will change people's minds in terms of beginning the debate on it.

First, let me talk about a provision in this bill that deals with BDS. BDS—boycott, divestment and sanctions—is an international effort to wage economic war on Israel in order to punish it for its supposed treatment of Palestinians. It boycotts companies that do business in Israel until they cut ties. It boycotts or pressures banks and investment firms until they divest of any investments that help Israel. It then asks governments to impose sanctions on Israel. That is BDS.

Some people support it. There are two newly elected Members of the House who openly support it. I assume that is their right. I think they are wrong, but that is their right. The vast majority of people do not support it.

What has happened across America is that there are States and counties and cities that have decided they don't support BDS. It is not illegal and we are not going to make it illegal if you want to be a company that participates in BDS. Yet we—the government, the cities, and the States—are not going to buy services or goods from any company that is boycotting Israel. All this bill does is protect them from lawsuits if they make that decision.

The argument against this has been—and I have seen this now in numerous statements from those on the other side of the aisle—that it infringes on the First Amendment rights of individuals. I don't know what bill does that, but it isn't this one.

To begin with, this bill doesn't even apply to individuals. Individuals can do whatever they want. If you don't want to buy stock in a company that does business in Israel, I think it is shortsighted, but no one is stopping you from doing that. If you want to divest your investments from companies that do business in Israel, no one is stopping you from doing that. If you don't want to shop at or buy from companies that do business with Israel, that is not illegal. This doesn't apply to any individuals.

By the way, it doesn't even make it illegal for companies to make that decision. This is not banning participating in BDS. You have every right to support it. You are wrong, but you

have every right to support it. You have every right to carry it out if you are a company or an individual.

This bill does not apply to individuals. Any time people say they are protecting the individual First Amendment rights of Americans by opposing this legislation, I don't know what they are talking about because this does not apply to individuals.

All this says is to go ahead and do it. If you, company X, want to boycott Israel or divest investments from Israel, you can, but the people who disagree with you can boycott and divest from you. You see, free speech is a two-way street. If you want to proclaim something or say something, you have every right to do it, but the people who disagree with you have a right to do that as well. If there is a First Amendment right to companies to boycott or divest from Israel, then there has to be a First Amendment right to boycott or divest from those companies.

If you oppose this bill, then you are in favor of shielding from counter-boycotts anyone who decides to take these actions. That is what you are for, which is de facto support for BDS, because what you are basically saying is to go ahead and boycott Israel and divest from Israel, but no one can do that to you. That is not what the First Amendment is. The First Amendment protects your right to speech, and it protects from government infringement an individual's right to speak. It does not protect you from people who disagree with you. It does not protect you from people who speak out against you. So if you are a boycotter, you yourself can be boycotted. If you are a divestor, people can divest from you. I am talking about the elected representatives of our cities and counties. If the members of that community do not agree with that decision, they can vote them out of office.

Why does a city or a county have to be forced to buy products from companies that are undertaking a foreign policy action, which is what this is? This is not an effort to influence domestic policy; this is an effort to influence the policies of a foreign country. Why should a city or a county be forced by law to have to do business with those that a city or a county or a State disagrees with? That is all this bill is.

When people go around talking about how this infringes on the First Amendment rights of individuals, it is just not honest. It is just not true. This doesn't even apply to individuals. In fact, the bill says very clearly in writing—right there—that nothing under this act shall be construed to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of any American.

As they continue to say that, just know that this bill only applies to cities, counties, and States being able to not buy things from companies. This doesn't give you the right to fire an employee who posts a pro-BDS thing on Facebook. This doesn't give you the right to refuse to sell a home to or pro-

vide housing for or discriminate in any way against individuals who support BDS. This doesn't give anyone the right to put you in jail for supporting BDS. It doesn't do anything to infringe on anyone's First Amendment right. All it does is protect the First Amendment right to be against BDS and to do to the boycotters what the boycotters are doing to Israel. It is a two-way street. Those are the facts. If you are hiding behind that in order to oppose this bill, you are not being frank about what the bill does.

The second part of this bill that I wanted to talk about today shouldn't be controversial at all because we are all now painfully familiar with the grave humanitarian crisis we have seen in Syria. I would say and most would agree that what we have seen over the last 8 years of this conflict is the worst humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War. It began as anti-government protests, but it led to the fighting for political freedoms that has now escalated into a bloody civil war with a bunch of foreign fighters flowing in. It is a mess of all kinds of different groups from foreign countries and of radical jihadists.

Caught in the middle are innocent people who have been bombed and gassed. In fact, this administration has had to take action to punish militarily the Assad regime for dropping chlorine bombs and chemical weapons on civilian populations. We have seen these images of children, babies, and everyday people—bakers and plumbers and small business owners and professionals—who 1 minute were walking around and the next minute were choking to death because their own government, with the support of Russia and Iran, dropped chemical weapons on their communities and killed countless people.

Not only is this sort of activity horrifying, it is a war crime. It is a war crime to deliberately target civilian populations, and it is particularly cruel to do it with a gruesome form of death—that is, death by chemical weapon. That is what we have seen.

That is what we have seen supported, by the way, by Vladimir Putin. He knows for a fact what they are doing and doesn't care. He gives them cover, and he makes up these ridiculous stories about how it is the opposition that has done it. Everyone knows who has done it. There is zero doubt about it. That is why they don't allow inspectors to go in and find evidence and point it out. But it is abundantly clear who is doing it, and they have done it.

Even as this administration is deciding to pull out, the prospects grow and the likelihood grows every day that the people who have made these decisions will never be held accountable for what they have done. These war criminals—these savages—will never be held accountable for what they have done if trends continue the way they are going. This bill tries to address that.

The now chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator from

Idaho, Mr. RISCH, filed a bill last year, called the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, that is now included in this bill. I believe he will be here shortly to speak about it. It is called the Caesar bill—it has nothing to do with Rome—because it is named after a Syrian military defector. It is named after someone who was in the Syrian military whose code name was “Caesar” who smuggled out tens of thousands of pictures of what was going on inside of Syria, the images of the thousands of people who were killed while being detained in Syria. They were images of the torture, of the brutalization of women and innocent men and even sometimes children by the Assad regime and by those who supported them.

The pictures show the true face of what we are dealing with here—the face of an evil and criminal regime, a regime that needs to be held to account. All those who support them and are allowing them to do it should also be held accountable.

What Senator RISCH’s bill does is it provides the Trump administration new legal authority to bring some accountability for the people who have done this.

First, it requires a determination and a report by the Treasury on whether the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution of primary money laundering concern. Why does that matter? Because they are using that bank to clean and launder money to fund their operations, to remain in power, and, ultimately, to gas and kill their own people.

The other thing it does is it imposes new sanctions on anyone who does business with or who provides financing to the Government of Syria, including Syrian intelligence and security services, or the Central Bank of Syria; who provides aircraft or spare aircraft parts that are used for military purposes in Syria; who does business with transportation or telecom sectors controlled by the Syrian Government; or who supports Syria’s energy industry.

These aren’t just about punishing them. It is about hurting them in their pocketbooks so they can’t afford to put those planes up there to drop these bombs on innocent people. It gives the administration the authority to do this.

By the way, this bill also requires the administration to brief Congress. You hear them talking about holding the administration accountable and conducting oversight. This bill requires them to come before us and tell us what their plan is to deliver humanitarian aid.

By the way, I want to know how we are going to deliver humanitarian aid if there is no U.S. presence on the ground and the only people left are the Russians, the Turks, the Iranians, and the Assad regime. It would be interesting to be briefed on that plan with us not there, but it requires them to come forward and either tell us what their plan is or admit that there isn’t a plan because we are not there anymore.

That is what this bill does. I would love for everyone here to support it, but before you can even vote for it, we have to start debate on it through the rules of the Senate. In about 15 minutes, we are going to vote on this thing, and there are going to be people who vote against even starting a debate on it, and the argument is that it is because of the shutdown.

I hope people reconsider. I don’t understand the logic of it, but when you talk about the threats that are facing Israel, which the overwhelming majority of the Senators here say they are strong supporters of, and when you talk about the importance of Jordan and our alliance with Israel, something that every single person here basically agrees with, for the most part, and when you talk about these horrifying war crimes for which there should be some accountability, which I believe everybody here was outraged by, how does stopping a bill or refusing to move on to debating a bill that deals with those things help end the shutdown? It doesn’t. It makes no sense, but, apparently, that is what some are willing to do.

They probably aren’t watching at this point. They are probably off at their caucus lunches or doing something else, but I hope that over the last 48 hours, some of my colleagues on the Democratic side have thought about it and have said to themselves that it really doesn’t make any sense to deal with the government shutdown by shutting down the Senate.

I hope they will reconsider and vote differently this time. If they don’t, then, I am just not sure how we can explain to people why it is that we will not agree to even begin debate on something almost all of us agree on for reasons completely unrelated to it. In essence, that is what happened earlier this week and what could potentially happen here very shortly.

I actually, oftentimes, wonder what must go through the minds of visitors to the Capitol. I understand most people in America aren’t watching this. Very few people probably are. I wonder. You come up here, and these groups from Close Up were here. It is a great organization. It brings high school kids up here. You try to explain to normal, regular human beings that there is a bill that 90 of the 100 Senators support, but we are not even going to be able to debate it because they are voting against debating it. They would look at you like you have three heads and say: What are you talking about? They support the bill, but they don’t want to have a debate on the bill yet? Why? Because of the government shutdown. Well, what does that have to do with it?

There are no other aspects in our lives where we would do that. I have never heard that in my life. I have never heard someone say: I am not going to work today because I am upset that my favorite team lost the game yesterday, or I am not paying my

bills this month because I don’t like the fact that they charged me too much for changing my tires. If you did that in any part of your life, people would think you were crazy. Yet that is what is happening here.

What kind of leverage is this—that you are going to hold up a bill we all agree on as leverage to force us to negotiate? The Democratic leader and the Democratic Members know that in order for a bill to become law, it needs the support of the House, which their party controls, 60 Senators, which they can keep us from getting, and the President who will sign it. They know full well that this has nothing to do with that, but, nonetheless, a majority of them seem to be prepared to vote against even debating it.

I don’t know how to explain that. I certainly don’t know how to explain it to high school students up here visiting from Close Up or to anyone else, for that matter, but that is what happened earlier this week, and that is what might happen today here in a few minutes.

I hope I am wrong. I hope people have reconsidered because, honestly, this is an issue that deserves our earnest attention.

I will close with this. Please do not go around saying that Congress needs to do more to hold the administration accountable or to conduct oversight of our administration policy, when we started this Congress trying to do that and you decided to keep us from doing it for some other reason. Don’t say that Congress needs to be more involved in the foreign policy of the United States, when this is exactly what we are trying to do here today and you will not let us for reasons unrelated to it.

This country needs a strong Senate more than ever before, not one that is shut down. I hope people will change their minds so we can get to work on this right now.

The Senate should be able to walk, chew gum, write, and read at the same time—or a lot of us. There are 100 people here. We should be able to do multiple things at the same time. We do it all the time.

You don’t need to shut down the Senate, and you don’t need to stop debate on this bill to solve the government shutdown. One has nothing to do with the other. Everyone knows that. Americans understand that. Normal people recognize that.

Let’s act normal. Let’s stop being weird about these things, and let’s move on something like this and get the debate going, even as we work on the government shutdown and on border security.

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. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, again, to discuss S. 1 and to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this.

We had a vote just the other day on this, and it has been reconsidered. All Republicans voted for it. Four of our friends on the other side of the aisle also voted with us on this, and I would urge a few more to do so. If that happens, we will actually pass this package of bills, which is so important.

These have been kicked around for some time. The substance of these bills have near—although not complete—unanimous approval of this body. Indeed, Members of this body have voted for these, both in committee and on the floor, individually in the past, but they have not gotten across the finish line because we ran out of time in the last Congress.

Essentially, it is a package of three bills that support our friends. One, of course, supports Israel. One supports Jordan, one of our best friends in the Middle East. And, lastly, one of the bills refreshes and strengthens the sanctions against Bashar al-Assad and his government in Syria.

These should pass. You might ask yourself: Well, what is going on here? Why are we having these party-line votes on this? Well, my friends on the other side of the aisle have said: We are not going to vote on anything while the government is shut down, and we should be focused on this. I would remind my friends that there are a lot of us around here who are veterans of the 2013 Obama-Harry Reid shutdown.

During that shutdown, the U.S. Senate continued to do its job, continued to consider resolutions, continued to pass bills, and continued to do confirmations, as it was required to do.

That is what we have here today—something that we should be doing that reinforces our friends in the Middle East. Particularly with times being somewhat tumultuous there, it is important that we support our friends in the Middle East, and it is important that we put these sanctions on the people of Syria.

I would also remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that they are forcing a vote on the Treasury regulations surrounding Mr. Deripaska, the Russian person who has had sanctions placed on him and who has gone through the process of getting them removed. My friends on the other side are requiring that we debate and then vote on those, which is a good thing to do. First of all, there are some issues that need to be aired there, and, secondly, it is important that we have the process for reviewing actions by the Treasury Department under the sanctions legislation in the past. It is good that we do that. But to say “We can’t do this, but we can do that” because they want to do it really doesn’t make sense. They also want to do this. I think if we had a straight-up vote on this, I would suspect the Democrats would vote unanimously to do this.

This is just the wrong way to do business. We are the U.S. Senate. We are open for business. We are doing business. In the last shutdown, we did business, and there is no reason we can’t do this.

Mr. President, fellow Senators, for all of the reasons I have just said, I urge an affirmative vote on this good legislation. Get it on its way, and get it doing the things that we want to see done.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Rick Scott, Mitt Romney, Cory Gardner, Marco Rubio, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Todd Young, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, James E. Risch, John Boozman.

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 proceed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Leg.]

#### YEAS—53

Alexander	Braun	Cotton
Barrasso	Burr	Cramer
Blackburn	Capito	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Collins	Enzi

Ernst	Lankford	Rubio
Fischer	Lee	Sasse
Gardner	Manchin	Scott (FL)
Graham	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Grassley	McSally	Shelby
Hawley	Menendez	Sinema
Hoeven	Murkowski	Sullivan
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Tillis
Isakson	Risch	Toomey
Johnson	Roberts	Wicker
Jones	Romney	Young
Kennedy	Rounds	

#### NAYS—43

Baldwin	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Hassan	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Shaheen
Brown	Kaine	Smith
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Reed	
Gillibrand	Rosen	

#### NOT VOTING—4

Cornyn	Moran
Cruz	Perdue

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

#### 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Richard C. Shelby, James E. Risch, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Steve Daines, Marco Rubio, Rob Portman, John Barrasso, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

#### CIVILITY, FAIRNESS, AND OPPORTUNITY

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, each new year brings with it a range of different emotions. We look back on what we have accomplished in the last year, what we hope to achieve in the year to come, and think of ways we can better ourselves.

Some of our objectives may include eating just a little less. For me, that

means eating a little less sour cream pound cake or sweet potato pie, which is something I can completely control, and I am trying.

As a nation, though, we need to look at some goals for the new year that will help us move forward together—goals that may be a little tougher and require all of us to work together. While we may have some uncomfortable conversations—and we will—we must recognize that at the end of the day, we are family, both inside our homes and as Americans, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As we look to 2019, I am hopeful we can take three lessons and carry them forward. Those who follow me know I have focused my time in the Senate on an opportunity agenda that focuses on helping people rise from poverty in distressed communities, helping folks who are living paycheck to paycheck to experience the greatness that is, in fact, the American dream, and I will continue to focus on those issues in 2019, but you will also hear from me in 2019 what I believe are some missing keys to American progress. Those keys are civility, fairness, and opportunity.

So when you are having dinner and a family member tries to tell you that the reigning Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles—lucky, of course, to be in the playoffs at all—are in fact the best football team in America, we all know the truth: It is America's team, the Dallas Cowboys. You will have a discussion with your family friend who believes otherwise, and I hope you will disagree strongly, that you will argue with facts, history—the history of Roger Staubach or Troy Aikman or Emmitt Smith or Tony Dorsett or “Too Tall” Jones—and you argue that with history and with passion, but you know, at the end of the day, your crazy uncle is still your crazy uncle. You will see each other next weekend. You will hug, and you will start the same fight all over again, but you see what you have done is you have agreed to disagree without being disagreeable. That, at its core, is the civility our Nation is sorely missing right now.

Too often too many seem too focused on saying whatever they want to say and saying it more loudly, without any concern for the actual content. We need to return to civility, where the other side isn't evil or a traitor or trying to destroy our country, but they simply have a different vision for how to achieve success.

Second, sometimes we struggle to make sure our loved ones, especially our kids around Christmastime, are treated fairly. So as they open their presents, we want to make sure everyone has a chance to play with everything. This is what we call trying to be fair. As a parent—or in my case as the giver of cool gifts—we want to make sure the kids are being fair with their siblings as they play with the new toys. There is something in each and every one of us that yearns for fairness, but

too often, when we leave the comfort of those mornings, we tend to want more for ourselves than we want for others. We want people to treat us in a way that gives us the benefit of the doubt, but sometimes we don't want to give it in return. Being fair means first seeking to understand before being understood.

Finally, opportunity. I want to look back at a Christmas tradition in my hometown of North Charleston, a place where we see amazing things happen around the Christmas holidays. We see police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers coming together about 6 a.m. on Christmas morning to go knock on doors, where they know definitively there are kids without Christmas trees, much less Christmas presents. These police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers join hands and raise a ton of dollars and bring presents to the doors. Anyone who has experienced this, as I have, cannot fully describe the joy on a child's face, the emotion and the tears of happiness for someone who didn't expect a single thing for the holidays, because opportunity is just not about ourselves and our families. While we certainly strive to be successful, the true meaning of the Christmas and the holiday season lies in what we do for others.

For Congress, that means everything we do—everything we do—should be with an eye toward improving the lives of all Americans. For folks at home, remember, there are folks in your community who are less fortunate. This became the greatest Nation on Earth because of our hearts and our minds, the hearts and minds of the American people, the power and endurance of the American dream, and the graciousness and strength of the American spirit; in other words, American exceptionalism. Civility, fairness, and opportunity are three words that can help our Nation heal and move us forward toward a better future.

My hope this year is that we will take some time to think about what each of us can do to further these goals. Resolutions are good. Being resolute in our mission to strengthen our Nation is great. Soon I will speak about my vision for the future, my America 2030 plan.

I want to say happy new year and ask everyone to remember the true spirit of what makes America great.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEMSON TIGERS' 2019 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Mr. President, before I close, I would like to talk, just for a few minutes, about an epic celebration in a small upstate city in the great State of South Carolina—a celebration that is because of a game. Now, in South Carolina, we have real division. The divisions can be seen between those who support the Clemson Tigers and those like myself who support the Carolina Gamecocks. After the Clemson national championship victory, both sides of the great State of South Carolina—at least most

of us—are celebrating the absolute overwhelming success of the Clemson Tigers. You can't help but appreciate and admire the amazing leadership at Clemson University, the leadership of Jim Clements, the President of Clemson University.

Clemson has been an amazing testament to the goodwill and good effort of programs focused on character first. As Coach Swinney has created an absolute powerhouse in Clemson, it is hard to deny that he is not one of the best coaches in college football in America today. He has surrounded himself with amazing players such as Deshaun Watson, DeAndre Hopkins, Vic Beasley, and now Trevor Lawrence, Travis Etienne, and Christian Wilkins.

I want to extend my congratulations to Clemson University on their second national championship in just the last 4 years and their third overall national championship. I wish I could be in Clemson on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. as they—they don't have to paint the streets orange because they are already orange—but as they blow out the great city they live in. I will say that not only am I heartened and excited about the success of Clemson University on the field, I thought, listening to Dabo Swinney as he talked about success in life, it reminded me of my civility, fairness, and opportunity agenda for 2019.

He said something to this effect. When asked about his success and the greatness of his football team and the wonders of winning a national championship, what did he celebrate the most? He said it in this fashion. He said: When I think about being selfless, when I think about real success, it is in this order. First, it is about honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior; second, it is about honoring others; and third, finally, it comes down to self. There is something to learn about putting others before ourselves as we look toward a more civil society, filled with fairness, brimming with opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Senator, and if I may congratulate the junior Senator from South Carolina on the spectacular win that Clemson had and also congratulate him about being so true to the spirit of civility he discussed and not trash-talking the other team involved.

It was a truly splendid victory between two extraordinarily talented and capable teams, and I congratulate the Senator.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Gladly.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. I will concede that while I am exuberant and excited for the enthusiasm for Clemson's success this year, I am aware that next year Clemson and Alabama may meet again. So the more you celebrate this year, perhaps the more you will regret it next year.

Thank you, Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President, and happy new year. The new 116th Congress brings new hope for the Senate to face up to the clear and present danger of climate change. The House of Representatives being in Democratic hands augments that hope.

The Senate Republican majority has failed to address climate change. This is no accident. This is the Senate in the Citizens United era. I was here before Citizens United, and for years we saw Senate climate bipartisanship, before Citizens United. After Citizens United, what we see is immensely powerful climate-denying, dark-money front groups for the fossil fuel industry, all likely funded by fossil fuel interests, and we see no Republican Senator willing to cross them. The spending they do in politics—and the more silent threat of spending—is a blockade. It reeks.

Here is a case study on how dark and unlimited money play in Senate elections. In 2016, in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin, three Democratic Senate candidates stood a good early chance of winning Republican-held seats in 2016. All were solid, experienced candidates who had been Senators before. All were ahead in early polling. Then the big influencers came in hard, launching attack ads, in some cases, well more than 1 year before the election. It is a little like strafing the other side's planes while they are still on the airfield.

The pile-on of so-called outside group spending against these three candidates came to almost \$70 million. All three ultimately lost their races, and their losses meant Republicans kept majority control of this Chamber.

Let's look at that \$70 million that acquired the continued Republican majority control of this Chamber. Of that \$70 million, only about \$11 million came from donors and PACs that appear unconnected to the fossil fuel industry. At least two-thirds of that outside spending—more than \$46 million—can be directly traced to groups that received significant funding from fossil energy, and \$12 million, the remainder of that 70, came through dark money channels. In this day and age in America, powerful influencers can obscure their identities by running their political spending through these dark money channels so it is impossible for us to know whether or how much of this remaining \$12 million was from polluter dollars—fossil fuel dollars. I strongly suspect all of it was. In any event, when one industry can deliver that kind of political artillery, the vast majority of a \$70 million barrage against three specific candidates, that gives that industry remarkable political power with the side that is advantaged—climate action stopping political power, it would seem.

As the mounting effects of climate change have grown ever more dire and

the scientific understanding has grown ever more clear, what has the Senate done? Nothing. Let's look at what we learned and what we witnessed and what we failed to do in 2018.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the release of two landmark climate science reports—one from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the effects of warming 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and the second, the Trump administration's own "National Climate Assessment." Together, these reports delivered the starkest warning on climate change to date. Damage from climate change is already occurring. Economies are now at risk, and we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences.

The IPCC report told us that accounting for the costs of carbon pollution by charging a price for carbon emissions is the "central" policy that will allow us to hold the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less. Even this dire endorsement was not enough to move a single Republican colleague to join a bill to establish a carbon fee.

More telling was the spectacle of the Trump administration's "National Climate Assessment." This report, written by 13 Federal Agencies, described the monumental damage the United States is facing from climate change, flatly contradicting the climate denial assertions of the President and his fossil fuel-flunky Cabinet. The administration tried to bury the report by releasing it on Black Friday during the Thanksgiving holiday. That cynical move happily backfired, with more than 140 newspapers around the country featuring the report's stark findings on front pages and Google searches for "climate change" hitting their highest level for the year.

Tellingly, the fossil fuel industry and its bevy of stooges in the Trump administration did not contest the science in the report—an admission by inaction that they know their science denial campaign is phony. They know the real science is irrefutable. It is better to hide from it.

Unfortunately, we witnessed the irrefutable contribution of climate change to the most devastating natural disasters of 2018.

"Irrefutable," by the way, is one way to describe climate science. Another way to describe it is "incontrovertible." The description of climate science as "incontrovertible" was published in a New York Times full-page advertisement in 2009 that was signed by, among others, Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, Eric Trump, and the Trump Organization. How things change.

Anyway, out West, wildfires in California broke records. The Mendocino Complex Fire in July and August was the largest in the State's recorded history. The Camp Fire—this photograph—was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, killing 86 people. Scientists linked

California's increasing wildfires to climate change, estimating the area burned by wildfires across the Western United States since 1984 at twice what would have burned without the human-driven changes.

Michael Mann, the professor of atmospheric science at Penn State University, told PBS recently:

It's not rocket science. . . . You warm the planet, you're going to get more frequent and intense heat waves. You warm the soils, you dry them out, you get worse drought. You bring all that together, and those are all the ingredients for unprecedented wildfires.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the east coast slammed by hurricanes that were supercharged by warming oceans. Hurricanes gain strength from heat energy in the oceans they pass over. Warmer oceans also evaporate more water up into the storms, generating more storm rainfall. So stronger and wetter storms then ride ashore on higher and warmer seas and push larger storm surges ahead of them.

Hurricane Florence intensified over water 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above average and dumped record rainfall and flooding on the Carolinas. Preliminary analysis suggests that its rainfall was more than 50 percent higher due to climate change.

When Hurricane Michael hit Florida, it passed over water 2 to 3 degrees Celsius warmer than average. Passing over that heat, its winds spun up by 80 miles per hour in just 48 hours, becoming the strongest storm ever to make an October landfall in the United States and almost completely flattening the town of Mexico Beach, FL.

Scientists are increasingly able to identify the role of climate change in extreme weather. The American Meteorological Society reported in December that 15 extreme weather events in 2017 were made more likely due to human-caused climate change, including a devastating marine heat wave off the coast of Australia that would have been "virtually impossible" without human-induced warming. The report drew attention to the role of oceans in many of these extreme events. Jeff Rosenfeld, the Meteorological Society's editor-in-chief, said that "the ocean is actively playing a role in the extremes that we're seeing" and that "we're seeing the oceans as a link in a chain of causes that ultimately tie human causes to extreme weather events on land."

The changes occurring in the ocean are imposing an increasing threat to our coastal communities, from gulf communities in Louisiana to shoreline communities in Rhode Island.

The Union of Concerned Scientists released a report last year finding that over 300,000 coastal homes, with a collective market value of over \$130 billion, are at risk of chronic flooding by 2045. By the end of the century, 2.4 million homes, worth more than \$1 trillion, are expected to be at risk.

A 2018 report from Climate Central and Zillow found that thousands of

homes continue to be built in risky coastal areas that are expected to suffer annual floods by 2050.

Freddie Mac, the big U.S. housing corporation, has taken a look at this and warned of a coastal property values crash as those houses become uninhabitable or unmortgageable to the next buyer.

A second economic crash we face is a “carbon bubble” in fossil fuel companies. The “carbon bubble” collapse happens when fossil fuel reserves now on the books of fossil fuel companies turn out to be undevelopable “stranded assets.” Research published by economists in the journal *Nature Climate Change* estimated that in a world where we succeed in limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius, \$12 trillion of financial value could vanish from balance sheets globally in the form of stranded fossil fuel assets. That is over 15 percent of global GDP, and that is why the Bank of England calls this a systemic risk—i.e., a risk to the entire global economy.

Financial managers are waking up to these risks. At the recent U.N. climate summit in December, a group of 415 global investors, managing \$32 trillion of investments—these are men and women who have been trusted with managing \$32 trillion worth of investments—came together to warn that the world faces a financial crash worse than the 2008 crisis unless carbon emissions are urgently cut. The group called for the end of fossil fuel subsidies and the introduction of substantial prices on carbon emissions. They understand that to limit the worst climate risks, including economic catastrophes, we must cut carbon emissions immediately and substantially.

But back home, the Trump administration—clearly and completely corrupted by the fossil fuel industry—has now taken more than 90 actions to weaken climate policies. Regrettably, after years of decline, U.S. carbon emissions grew 3.4 percent in 2018. Global carbon emissions also grew by 2.7 percent to reach a new carbon emissions record.

If the Trump administration’s 2018 regulatory actions read like a fossil fuel industry wish list, it is because they are. Just one example is the fuel economy rollback for automobiles. It is a perfect example. The new, weaker standards were pushed by—guess who—the largest oil refiner in the country, Marathon Petroleum. Marathon also distinguished itself as a top donor to ethically challenged EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his time in political office in Oklahoma. Marathon worked with the creepy Koch Brothers’ network and oil industry lobby groups to run a stealth campaign, including a Facebook ad campaign using a phony front group called Energy4US that hid its oil industry origin.

Fossil fuel energy companies claim to be cleaning up their act. They issue statements voicing support for carbon pricing. Look at what they do when the

prospect of getting a carbon price on the books becomes real, as it did in Washington State’s carbon fee ballot initiative. The campaign against the carbon fee outspent the campaign supporting it by 2 to 1, dumping more money into this ballot fight than any ballot initiative campaign in the State’s history. And who funded the campaign against the initiative? Oil companies. BP, Phillips 66, and, of course, our friends Marathon Petroleum were the top spenders by far.

Oil companies claim to support carbon pricing, but the giant trade associations they fund to go out and do their political work—the American Petroleum Institute, the so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers—all oppose any proposals to reduce carbon pollution. The CEOs say one thing, and their political electioneering and lobbying apparatus is instructed to go out and do the exact opposite.

Another telling aspect of the Washington State ballot initiative is who did not show up. Conspicuously absent are any of the good-guy corporations from the tech, financial, and food and beverage sectors that talk such a good game on climate change. That is telling because it matches what happens here in Congress. The good-guy corporations do not lift a political finger to advance climate legislation here in the Senate. In fact, these are the good guys. Set aside the fossil fuel pirates and what they are all up to through their front groups and their dark money and all the nonsense that they drive. These are the supposed good guys. In fact, they have a net negative presence here in the Senate on climate legislation because they do virtually nothing, and the trade associations they help to fund, like the Chamber of Commerce, lobby against climate action.

So you have American corporations with good climate policies taking sustainability seriously within their corporate precincts. Then, those companies come to the Senate, and their positions, as they appear here in the Senate, are against the climate policies they claim to support because they work through these intermediary groups that have been co-opted by fossil fuel interests and because they don’t show up themselves. In 2019, let’s hope the good-guy American corporations get off the bench, clean up the acts of their trade groups, and get onto the field on the good side of the climate policy fight.

Let me wrap up, through all of that gloom, with the good news for the new year and beyond.

Record low prices for wind and solar projects are now cheaper than fossil fuels in many places. Battery costs are falling rapidly. Amazing electric vehicles keep coming to market. New carbon capture technologies emerge. Xcel Energy, a Colorado-based utility that serves over 3 million customers, has announced a commitment to reduce

carbon emissions 80 percent by 2030 and to have zero carbon emissions by 2050, which shows that players in the energy industry know to make this transition.

Out of the States, California has passed a law requiring 100-percent zero carbon electricity by 2045—100 percent. The Governors of New York and Washington States recently announced 100 percent zero carbon electricity goals. Hawaii has a law requiring 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045. On the same day in late December, the District of Columbia passed a bill requiring 100 percent renewable electricity by 2032, and nine Northeastern States—I am proud to say it includes my Rhode Island—committed to cap emissions from the transportation sector.

Here in the Senate, we can expect the new Democratic House to send climate legislation our way. Whether my Republican colleagues like it or not and whether the fossil fuel industry likes it or not, this will be an issue in the 116th Congress.

My new year’s wish is that my Republican Senate colleagues will finally wake up to the damage that climate change is causing, to the looming threat that climate change presents, and will help us to pass bills addressing the huge climate risk that we face.

This is not impossible. This is the way the Senate behaved until January of 2010. From when I was sworn in in 2007, through the rest of that year and through 2008 and 2009, we had bipartisan climate bills. We had bipartisan climate hearings. We had bipartisan climate negotiations. We had bipartisan climate discussions. It was possible to do that because the five Republican judges on the Supreme Court had not yet given the fossil fuel industry the massive, new political artillery they had given them in the *Citizens United* decision. Once the fossil fuel industry had that new artillery, the game changed, and it brought it to bear on our friends on the other side, and there has not been a single Republican Senator on a single serious carbon emissions bill since that moment. It shows what happens when you give a big special interest a massive, new piece of political weaponry.

It doesn’t mean it has to be this way. The good guys could show up and counterbalance the political hydraulics here of the fossil fuel industry’s power. Our colleagues could say: Guys, we gave you a heck of a good run. For years, we did nothing, but it is time now. We have taken a look at where voters are. We have even taken a look at where Republican voters are. We have taken a look at where the science is, and we are going to do something.

There are a lot of ways that we can go back to the bipartisan legislation, the bipartisan hearings, and the bipartisan conversations that characterized this issue before *Citizens United*. It has been too long that big polluter donors have had their way around here. They pay the fee, but our Nation pays the price. We have a responsibility here to

protect future generations from an avoidable disaster of our own making. It is time for us to wake up and do our job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. 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. The Senator from Oregon.

REMEMBERING LARRY WEINBERG

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about Larry Weinberg, who was beloved by many Oregonians, one of the original owners of our wonderful basketball team, the Portland Trail Blazers—the owner who won eternal gratitude from the people of my State as he guided our Trail Blazers to their first title. He passed away last week at the age of 92. He was a soft-spoken man who was never one to drone on, so in that spirit, I am going to keep these remarks brief.

The first thing we want everybody to know about Larry is that he was a wonderful family man. I met him for the first time in the early 1980s. I was a young Member of the other body, the House of Representatives, and Larry could have made our first conversation about politics. We were very interested, for example, in ways to promote a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. There were plenty of things we could have talked about with respect to politics, but he made the conversation about basketball, which was one of the great loves of his life, and I think people know around here that my great hope was to play in the NBA. Larry knew that.

Because Larry was a family man, that first conversation we had was about family, and he had an enormous family. If you look at the family photo on the holiday cards that Larry and his wife Barbi sent each year, you would think about half of the 320 million people in our country were actually Weinbergs. The cards were wonderful, and they just seemed to go on and on and on.

During that first conversation, Larry asked me about my family. I told him about my great-uncle Max, who was one of last Jews to be murdered in Auschwitz. I told him about my parents, who fled Nazi Germany as refugees and settled in America before they pitched in to the war effort during World War II.

That was one of the first bonds I had with Larry Weinberg, and I think that was true of many of his friends. We had family who were veterans themselves, loved ones who had wanted to make sure the United States prevailed in World War II, and that was Larry. He served in Europe during the war and sustained serious injuries in France.

Throughout his life, he carried that dedication to service that was so characteristic of so many of his generation.

Larry Weinberg applied the lessons of the war to his leadership of the American Jewish community. He worked to promote understanding between religious groups while demonstrating a firm commitment to the Jewish tradition of *tikkun olam*—improving the world. That is something Jews feel very strongly about. Whether it is healthcare or foreign relations, whatever, we want to be part of making the world a better place, perfecting the world. That is what *tikkun olam* means.

Larry and Barbi Weinberg supported the development of concrete scholarship on issues that face not only Israel but the entire Middle East, understanding that the difficulties affecting one's neighbors are really part of a shared burden, demanding a shared solution.

Portlanders like myself know Larry for another reason. If you are a Portlander of my age and an ardent Blazer fan, you cheered on Bill Walton's Trail Blazers because they won a championship for Rip City in 1977. If you are a young basketball fan in Portland today, you probably root for Dame—that is Mr. Lillard—or C.J.—that is C.J. McCollum. All of us in Portland and in Oregon owe Larry Weinberg a debt of gratitude because he brought the NBA to our State, and had he not done that, all of us who root for the Trail Blazers today wouldn't be able to turn out and see Dame and C.J. and all of our wonderful players who are really community leaders.

I remember back then seeing Larry and his wife Barbi cheering at our home games, and they were always wearing our colors. I particularly saw that bright-red blazer. Whether it was back in the seventies at the Memorial Coliseum or even in their later years at Moda Center, when you looked at Barbi and Larry Weinberg, you got a sense of what it meant not just to be a fan, but the Weinbergs really looked at our town and those Trail Blazers as part of their extended family.

With respect to sports and the intersection of sports and how sports fit into the world, I want to relate something that happened in the late 1980s when Larry approached me with a particular request, something he wanted me to do.

I was traveling to the Soviet Union with a group of Jewish community leaders from Portland. At that time, the Trail Blazers were very interested in bringing a wonderfully talented center, Arvydas Sabonis, to Portland. There was a discussion. It was a period when the United States and the Soviet Union were still talking about the relationship being so ambiguous. Reagan and Gorbachev were trying to sort it out. Larry asked me to present a letter to the Soviet Sports Federation about Arvydas Sabonis. He had actually been drafted a few years before, and the idea

was that the Trail Blazers hoped to bring Mr. Sabonis from the Soviet Union to the United States to play for the Trail Blazers in the NBA.

Now, as I mentioned, relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were still somewhat ambiguous, but they were improving. A lot of people believed that a Soviet-born player coming to play professional basketball in my hometown in Portland would help that along. So on this trip to the Soviet Union, Larry asked me to meet with the Soviet Sports Federation. I was to, in effect, hand over a letter to the Soviet Sports Federation, making it clear—and this was a courtesy letter—that if Mr. Sabonis were permitted to come to Oregon to play basketball for the Trail Blazers—the letter indicated—Mr. Sabonis would be well treated. He would have comfortable accommodations, good training facilities, and there would be people to advise him on nutrition and get him acclimated to our country.

Well, when I walked into this meeting in Moscow, I really felt like I was starring in *Rocky IV*. There I was—a young Congressman from the United States, a former basketball player myself—trying to make the case on behalf of my hometown and the Portland Trail Blazers to these men, all of whom were at least 20 or 30 years older than me. I was trying to make the case that if the Soviet Sports Federation were willing to allow Mr. Sabonis to come, he would be well treated.

What I got from these stern looking Soviet Sports Federation officials were essentially monosyllabic answers, much like you heard in the *Rocky* movies—maybe somebody would say “nyet.” I didn't know everything about the language of my host, but I got the sense that wasn't a good thing when they said that. I could get the sense about their skepticism as if they believed that this young American Congressman in front of them was pulling some sly trick of geopolitical strategy as we tried to bring Arvydas Sabonis to Portland.

I tried to make the point to these Soviet leaders that we were not exactly talking about arms control. We were talking about playing basketball, and we were talking about building bridges.

That, if anything, is what Larry Weinberg's life was all about. He was about building bridges in sports. He did it in terms of housing, when he was trying to create housing opportunities for people of modest means, when he was creating opportunities for people to learn from each other. There he was with this young Congressman, just wanting to offer a guarantee that Mr. Sabonis, the best Soviet player of his time, would be well cared for. It took a few more years. Eventually he made it to Portland, where Larry and Trail Blazer fans got to watch him play and play well.

I cannot find the picture, but back then there was a picture that ensured that Oregonians across the State were

laughing at their breakfast tables. One day it came out that Mr. Sabonis and I were strolling along the waterfront in Portland. I am 6 feet 4 inches—not as tall as Senator COTTON, but 6 feet 4 inches—and I was standing next to Mr. Sabonis, who was as tall as a typical building. I mean, we thought he might have been 7 feet 5 inches, which was much taller than was listed.

It was a wonderful experience for me, and it was a chance to see what Larry Weinberg was all about. He always told me: It is a chance for you to learn a little bit more about the world, RON, a chance for you to go to the Soviet Union—it was the Soviet Union at that time—and see the connection between reforms and what Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev were trying to do and the role of sports in terms of bringing people together.

I was so honored that Larry Weinberg would give me a window into that kind of opportunity and allow me, in a really small way, as a young Congressman to be part of what his life was always about, which is building bridges.

So I am going to close this way. I think some of my colleagues are going to speak about Larry as well. When the Jewish people really want to compliment somebody and say somebody is really special and has exceptional character, what we say is that person is a mensch. What I am here to tell the Senate today is my friend Larry Weinberg, whom we lost just a few days ago, was really a super mensch, a true mensch, a person of enormous integrity, decent at his core. I just want to say that Larry and his wife Barbi were the essence of Rip City pride. He was a soft spoken guy, but he was Portland's loudest fan.

Tonight, I want to say to his family and friends—all, seemingly, 100 million of them—that we are always going to remember Larry Weinberg with great fun and appreciation for his enormous contributions to our city and for all that he did during his lifetime to be in that bridge building business, for working to perfect the world—tikkun olam—a wonderful, wonderful man.

Our Larry Weinberg we Oregonians will always remember in our hearts.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will the call roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in a few moments I am going to yield the floor to Senator KAINE to make a unanimous consent request that has been cleared by both sides, and I am very pleased about that. This is in regard to S. 24, legislation that I have filed with several of my colleagues.

I particularly thank Senator KAINE, but I also want to thank my colleagues

Senator VAN HOLLEN and Senator MARK WARNER for their work, as well as Senator COLLINS and others in this body who cosponsored that legislation. It is legislation very similar to what we passed in the last hours of the 115th Congress by unanimous consent. It does what I think all of us have said we want to make sure is done; that is, when we reopen government, those who have been working without pay and those who are on furlough without pay will get their backpay. I think that is at least some assurance to our government workforce that when we finally reopen government, they know they will be getting their paychecks. I think it is a very important point to give them at least that comfort.

I don't want to minimize the risk factors that we have for the 800,000 Federal workers who are not getting their paychecks. Just today, I found a letter from a constituent. I am going to read it very briefly.

"Dear Senator CARDIN, As an Air Traffic Controller and Maryland constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me and my family. Today, I received my Earnings and Leave statement from the Department of Transportation, indicating I received \$0 for my last 2 weeks of working at the FAA-Washington Enroute Air Traffic Control Center in Leesburg, VA. I have proudly gone to work for this job that I love, and always maintain the highest level of safety. My husband Brad is also a controller with me at Washington Center, and his Earnings and Leave Statement was for \$1.34. We cannot sustain our financial obligations on a total of \$1.34 for our last two weeks of work! We recently were able to build a new house to try to start a family, and we still have increased financial obligations because of that and all that entails. In addition, my family, my brother and father, has minimal income now, and we are supporting them. My father is 69 years old and currently has an enlarged hernia that requires an operation, he has no health insurance, and no income. He lives in NH, and is on even more medication now. The side effects are greatly affecting him. He needs my help, and I don't have the resources now to help him. He is suffering so much, and I love him greatly. My brother recently had to weather a separation from his wife, and has been unable to find affordable housing in MD on a single income for him and my niece and nephew—Ayden 10 years and Ava 7 years old. They have been living in our basement since August 2018, and we have been supporting them in every way we can until he can get back on his feet. I love them so much, and now I can't continue to help them. This hurts so much, we need our pay checks to support our family now!"

It ends by saying: "Please help in any way you can to END THIS SHUTDOWN NOW!"

I couldn't agree more. I urge our colleagues, hopefully in the next couple of

days—even before that—to end the shutdown. But at least, as a result of the unanimous consent request that will be made very shortly, which has cleared both sides, we can tell them that the pay is coming.

I see the distinguished majority leader is here. We had some words earlier. I want to thank the majority leader for accommodating this unanimous consent. It is consistent with what the leader has said in the past, that we will make sure our workers get paid when the government is open.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I had an opportunity to talk to President Trump a few moments ago and wanted to indicate to our colleagues that he will sign the bill that we have been discussing here to guarantee that government workers who have been displaced as a result of the shutdown will ultimately be compensated. So I want to ease their anxiety about that particular possibility.

With that in mind, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 3, S. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 24) to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 24) was passed, as follows:

S. 24

*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 "Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "An officer" and inserting "Except as specified in this subchapter or any other provision of law, an officer"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'covered lapse in appropriations' means any lapse in appropriations that begins on or after December 22, 2018;

"(B) the term 'District of Columbia public employer' means—

“(i) the District of Columbia Courts;  
 “(ii) the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; or  
 “(iii) the District of Columbia government;  
 “(C) the term ‘employee’ includes an officer; and  
 “(D) the term ‘excepted employee’ means an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work, as such terms are defined by the Office of Personnel Management or the appropriate District of Columbia public employer, as applicable.

“(2) Each employee of the United States Government or of a District of Columbia public employer furloughed as a result of a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations, and each excepted employee who is required to perform work during a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for such work, at the employee’s standard rate of pay, at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.

“(3) During a covered lapse in appropriations, each excepted employee who is required to perform work shall be entitled to use leave under chapter 63 of title 5, or any other applicable law governing the use of leave by the excepted employee, for which compensation shall be paid at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.”

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask 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 Senator from Virginia.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT  
OF 2019

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, just briefly, I also want to extend my gratitude to the majority leader for working with us on this matter. I alerted both caucuses yesterday that I planned to object to adjourning for the weekend on the grounds that tomorrow more than 800,000 Federal employees will stop getting paychecks. This has already started, according to the words of my colleague from Maryland.

Also, on Saturday the shutdown will achieve the dubious distinction of being the longest shutdown in the history of the United States. So yesterday I alerted both caucuses that my plan was to object to an adjournment. I filed that objection. The majority leader then engaged in discussion, together with the minority leader and others, about whether there is something we can do to send a message to these people, many of whom are under very dire circumstances. They have written me, too, about postponing medical procedures and not buying medication for their kids. Is there something we can do that can send them some message of comfort that they will receive their paychecks, if not tomorrow, but they will be made whole?

Over the course of the afternoon, as we have talked about it, we thought the best message we could send—and I am glad we are able to send it by voice vote unanimously from this body—is that they will be paid. When we reopen, they will be paid.

That is not the same comfort as getting the paycheck. It is not the same comfort as knowing when the shutdown will be over and when they can go back to try to keep serving American citizens, but having the certainty that it will be paid is something that we can do for these people. I appreciate the majority leader’s working with us on the S. 24 bill that Senator CARDIN is the sponsor of and I am a cosponsor of. It does good work in this regard, and I think we can send some people a little bit of a signal on what will be a tough day tomorrow. We can send them a little bit of a signal that we are going to be there, and they can count on the paycheck.

With that, I thank my colleagues for working together on this.

I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am glad I had the opportunity to vote with my colleagues, the majority leader, and my colleagues from Virginia and Maryland on the bill we just passed here on the Senate floor to ensure the backpay for Federal workers who will be without pay, and I hope we can get to a resolution soon on this partial government shutdown that gets all elements of the government open and fully funds the border and the significant amounts requested by the White House that I think most Americans and most Alaskans need and want.

TRIBUTE TO URBAN RAHOI

Mr. President, I hope that you and all the pages here—we have some new pages in the staff here—had a great holiday season and that everybody listening back home and watching back home in Alaska around the country also had a wonderful holiday. I certainly did. It is always great to be home in my State—spending time with family and my wife, my daughters, and with friends—which to me is the greatest State in the greatest country in the world.

Winter is a special time in Alaska. The sun may be low or in some places it may not rise above the horizon at all, but there is a certain glow that comes with the snow. With that glow and the Northern Lights dancing in the sky, particularly in the interior—the place I am going to talk about in a minute—it is magical. We want to assure anyone watching to come to Alaska and you are going to have the trip of a lifetime.

As I have said so many times on the floor of the Senate, it is the people who make my State so special—tough, hearty, resilient people who have lived some of the most amazing, meaningful, purposeful lives and who have the wisdom, the character, the toughness, and, yes, even the scars to prove it. Stories of character, stories of lives well-traveled, and stories of lives well-lived abound my State.

Last Saturday, in the great city of Fairbanks, AK, I had the great opportunity and the honor to attend the

100th birthday party—I am looking at the pages, who all just said “wow”—of a legend in Alaska, a man, certainly, of great stories but also of heart, of patriotism, and of everything that makes Alaska and America great.

As you know, Mr. President, I come to the floor nearly every week, while we are in session, to honor someone that I refer to as the Alaskan of the Week, someone who makes our State and our country very special. I want America right now—if you are watching on C-SPAN, in the Gallery, or the press—to meet Urban Raho, our Alaskan of the Week—a husband, a father, a veteran, a pilot, a hunting guide, a developer, and a builder, just to name a few of his defining characteristics.

Urban has lived a dozen lives, all in only one century—100 years old. He helped to save America, and he helped to build Alaska—to save this great Nation of ours and to build one of our greatest States. He is our Alaskan of the Week.

I believe he may even be watching in Fairbanks—I hope you are, Urban—in the pioneer home there, maybe with some of the Laundry House Gang members, maybe even my father-in-law, Bud, and, Craig Compeau. I hope you are all watching right now.

Urban has had such a full life that it is hard to know where to start—100 years. Let me give you some of the highlights.

He was born on January 7, 1919, the day after Teddy Roosevelt died, in Iron Mountain, MI. He grew up during the height of the Depression, but Urban recently told a reporter with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that the Depression for him and for his family wasn’t that bad. His family hunted. They grew their own food. They worked hard. He said: “We had a garden and we had 100 rabbits.” In many ways, that is how they got through the Depression.

He began to get interested in airplanes and in flying. When he was just 15 years old, he took his first solo flight—at 15, a solo flight—and he was forever hooked.

He was also hooked on the love of his life, whom he met when he was 21 years old, Vienna—Vi, everyone called her—and they got married in 1940.

In 1943, Urban joined the U.S. military during World War II, in the Army Air Corps, and he flew bombers in North Africa and Italy. “From Italy, we would fly bombing missions into southern Germany, Austria, Romania, and wherever they needed us”—dozens of bombing combat missions.

And what did he fly? Appropriately, Urban Raho flew the B-17s, also known as the “Flying Fortresses.” Those airplanes stayed in the air even after some of the toughest battles and some of the most vicious flak—tough as can be, just like Urban. Again, he was a B-17 pilot in World War II, part of the greatest generation, which saved America and saved this institution, among others, the U.S. Senate.

Eventually, as it does with a certain kind of an adventurous person, Urban heard the call of Alaska, and he flew to the State in a PA-12 Cub. He and Vi homesteaded on the Tanana River, near the Richardson Highway, and began to make a life for themselves in Alaska.

What a rich life it was. They began a family, eventually having three children—Rick, Eugene, and Holly. Urban also stayed active in the military, as a member of the Air Force Reserve 449th Fighter Squadron, in Alaska. He commanded the C-47 squadron and copiled several historic military aircraft, including the North American F-82 Twin Mustang, the Lockheed F-94 Starfire, and the Northrup F-89 Scorpion.

This is a great pilot for America. He began offering private flying services, and he also built two areas in terms of developments. Together, they made up these trailer parks with 172 lots. Urban designed the development of these areas and installed all of the electrical lines, the water lines, and the septic system—all himself.

Think about that. What American can do that today? He also built a lodge in an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. If that were not enough, he became a big game guide in Alaska, running a successful big game guiding business, and he built Ptarmigan Lake Lodge, an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

When Alaska became a State, guides were required to become registered, and they had registration numbers. Urban Rahoi was issued big game Alaska's State license No. 1—No. 1, the first.

All told, during his career as a pilot, he racked up an incredible 20,000 hours of flying—20,000 hours of flying. That is probably older than some of you pages. He has seen so much, nearly every part of Alaska. "If someone's there, I've been there," he said recently, about all the flights he has taken all over the great State of Alaska.

In 2012, the FAA presented Urban with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Here is what the FAA wrote:

He has used his skill as an aviator to train airmen, fight a war [for America], and maintain the safety standard in commercial aviation. He has rescued people in trouble and supplied people in . . . Bush [Alaska] with the necessities of life. He has contributed to the state of Alaska, and provided many people a chance to see the wild and beautiful Alaska we all love.

The party for Urban's 100th birthday last Saturday in Fairbanks was so reflective of the impact that he has had on the State, his community in Fairbanks, and, of course, his country. Fairbanks is a tough, tough place. I love Fairbanks. Fairbanks has been experiencing a bit of a cold snap. Last Saturday, at Urban's 100th birthday party, it was 30 below zero in Fairbanks. That is a dangerous temperature for some but not for the people of interior Alaska, who deal with that on

a regular basis. Despite 30-below temperatures, hundreds of people from the interior of Alaska and beyond, from all walks of life, were there at the Pioneer Parks' Centennial Center to honor this legend, this great Alaskan, and this great American.

There were family and friends. We even had a special guest—the football fans watching know him very well—former Miami Dolphins football player and Hall of Famer Larry Csonka was there to celebrate Urban's 100th birthday. Csonka had been sheep hunting at Urban's lodge, and the two remained very, very close friends ever since.

One of Urban's goals is to be the first 100-year-old to participate in a snowmachine race in Fairbanks—a race that Urban rides in every year. Larry Csonka gave him an autographed Miami Dolphins football helmet to wear as the helmet when Urban participates in this race this year.

There was a life-sized cake with 100 candles, a slide show of pictures of Urban and Vi at different phases of their lives—so many different adventures, World War II, Alaska as a State, so much love, so much life, so many people celebrating this great American.

I had the opportunity to talk a little bit about Urban at the birthday party last Saturday in Fairbanks, and I mentioned that here was a man who had so many qualities—patriotism, service, sacrifice, perseverance, and, yes, even tougher than Larry Csonka. The football fans watching know there are not many people in America who are tougher than Csonka. Urban is, and Csonka acknowledged this.

The one person missing from this great celebration was his beloved wife, who passed in Urban's arms on January 3, 2010, 3 days before their 70th wedding anniversary.

She was 92 years old. Vi's memory lives on in their 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild, and her memory lives on in Urban's heart.

At the ceremony, my good friend who put it together, Craig Compeau, was the emcee of this wonderful birthday party, and he interviewed Urban. Toward the end of it, he asked him what the secret for such a long life was—100 years old.

Urban said it could be summed up in two words: My wife.

Now, isn't that beautiful, America? Isn't that beautiful?

What a great man. What a great life.

So, Urban, here is to flying free, living well. Here is to the State and the country we all—you—love so much. Here is to being part of the "greatest generation" that saved America and built Alaska, and here is to the example you have set for all of us, whether U.S. Senators, whether pages, 100 years old, service to your country, dedication to your wife. Thanks for all you have done. Thanks for all you have done to protect and defend this great Nation, to build our great State, and thank

you, Urban, for being our Alaskan of the Week from the floor of the U.S. Senate. Happy 100th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted therein to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for January 2019. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, BBA18. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is my first scorekeeping report this year. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for November 15, 2018. That report included final budgetary levels for fiscal year 2018. The information included in this report is current through January 7, 2019.

Several bills have cleared Congress since my last filing. The three with the largest direct spending and revenue effects were the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, P.L. 115-282; the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115-334; and the First Step Act, P.L. 115-391.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared Tables 1-3.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the most recently adopted budget resolution and the fiscal year 2019 enforceable levels filing. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. For this reporting period, 8 of the 16 authorizing committees are not in compliance with their allocations. Over the current 10-year enforceable window, authorizing committees have increased outlays by a combined \$3.4 billion.

Tables 2 provides the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in sections 312 and 314 of the CBA. Appropriations for fiscal year 2019, displayed in this table, show that the Appropriations Committee is currently compliant with spending limits for fiscal year



2019. As of this filing, 7 of the 12 annual appropriations bills have not been enacted with full-year spending.

The fiscal year 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPS. Table 3, which tracks the CHIMP limit of \$15 billion for fiscal year 2019, shows the Appropriations Committee has enacted \$7.7 billion worth of full-year CHIMPS for fiscal year 2019. The fiscal year 2019 CHIMPS were contained in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies division of P.L. 115-245. This information is used for determining the point of order under section 4102, overall limit, of H. Con. Res. 71, 115th Congress.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

For fiscal year 2019, CBO annualizes the effects of the last continuing resolution, P.L. 115245, which provided funding through December 21, 2018. For the enforcement of budgetary aggregates, the Budget Committee historically excludes temporary funding. As such, the current-law levels are \$305.5 billion and \$196.7 billion below enforceable levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Revenues are \$302 million below the level assumed in the budget resolution. Further, Social Security revenues are at the levels assumed for fiscal year 2019, while Social Security outlays are \$4 million above assumed levels for the budget year.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule. The PAYGO scorecard shows deficit increases in FY 2019 of \$1,797 million—\$302 million revenue loss, \$1,495 million outlay increase—over the fiscal year 2018–2023 period of \$3,045 million—\$665 million revenue loss, \$2,380 million outlay increase—and over the fiscal year 2018–2028 period of \$416 million—\$625 million revenue loss, \$209 million outlay decrease. The Senate's PAYGO rule is enforced by section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71, 115th Congress.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor since the May 7, 2018, enforcement filing. Since my last report, no new budgetary points of order were raised.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

	[In millions of dollars]		
	2019	2019–2023	2019–2028
<b>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry</b>			
Budget Authority .....	2,414	4,249	3,123
Outlays .....	1,406	1,820	70
<b>Armed Services</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0
<b>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs</b>			
Budget Authority .....	21	285	382
Outlays .....	20	285	382
<b>Commerce, Science, and Transportation</b>			
Budget Authority .....	41	77	91
Outlays .....	11	74	90
<b>Energy and Natural Resources</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	–14
Outlays .....	0	0	–14
<b>Environment and Public Works</b>			
Budget Authority .....	2	4	–333
Outlays .....	2	4	–333
<b>Finance</b>			
Budget Authority .....	206	991	–919
Outlays .....	119	988	–919
<b>Foreign Relations</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	–5	–20
Outlays .....	0	–5	–20
<b>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	2	4
Outlays .....	43	48	49
<b>Judiciary</b>			
Budget Authority .....	11	194	467
Outlays .....	11	190	462
<b>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	–36	–84
Outlays .....	0	–36	–84
<b>Rules and Administration</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0
<b>Intelligence</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0
<b>Veterans' Affairs</b>			
Budget Authority .....	4	3	–729
Outlays .....	4,402	4,400	3,668
<b>Indian Affairs</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0
<b>Small Business</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>			
Budget Authority .....	2,699	5,764	1,968
Outlays .....	6,014	7,768	3,351

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS<sup>1</sup>

	[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]	
	2019	
	Security <sup>2</sup>	Nonsecurity <sup>2</sup>
Statutory Discretionary Limits .....	647,000	597,000
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	9
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Defense .....	606,340	129
Energy and Water Development .....	22,440	22,200
Financial Services and General Government .....	0	0
Homeland Security .....	0	9
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies .....	0	178,076
Legislative Branch .....	0	4,836
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies .....	10,332	86,804
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs .....	0	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	4,400
Current Level Total .....	639,112	296,463
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits .....	–7,888	–300,537

<sup>1</sup> This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

<sup>2</sup> Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

	[Budget authority, millions of dollars]	
	2019	
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019 .....		15,000
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies .....		0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies .....		0
Defense .....		0
Energy and Water Development .....		0
Financial Services and General Government .....		0
Homeland Security .....		0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies .....		0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies .....		7,715
Legislative Branch .....		0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies .....		0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs .....		0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies .....		0
Current Level Total .....		7,715
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution .....		–7,285

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, January 10, 2019.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2019 budget and is current through January 7, 2019. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018, pursuant to section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123).

Since our last letter dated November 15, 2018, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority, outlays, and revenues in fiscal year 2019:

Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282),

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334); and

First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391).  
Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019

	[In billions of dollars]		
	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
<b>On-Budget</b>			
Budget Authority .....	3,619.2	3,634.5	15.3
Outlays .....	3,546.4	3,540.7	–5.7
Revenues .....	2,590.5	2,590.2	–0.3
<b>Off-Budget</b>			
Social Security Outlays <sup>a</sup> .....	908.8	908.8	0.0
Social Security Revenues .....	899.2	899.2	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

<sup>a</sup> Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

Table with columns: Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include: Previously Enacted, Enacted Legislation (Authorizing, Appropriation), Continuing Resolution, Total Current Level, Current Level Over/Under Senate Resolution, and Revenues 2019-2028.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

a Sections 1001–1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114–255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Congressional Budget Act). Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include \$771 million in budget authority, and \$767 million in estimated outlays.

b For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include those items.

c Public Law 115–298 amended the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (Division C of P.L. 115–254), to continue the appropriations and authorities contained in Divisions A, B, E–G, and K–M of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, through December 21, 2018. As of January 7, 2019, those appropriations and authorities have not been further extended. This report includes the annualized levels of estimated budget authority and outlays that were provided by P.L. 115–298, as it was in effect on December 21, 2018.

d Pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C. Res. 290 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of \$655 million in fiscal year 2019, \$570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and \$454 million over the 2019–2028 period.

e Division I of P.L. 115–254 provided \$1.68 billion in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and designated those amounts as being for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. In general, the budgetary effects of authorizing legislation are recorded as direct spending or revenue. However, consistent with the language in Division I, and at the direction of the Senate Committee on the Budget, those budgetary effects are classified as discretionary spending.

f Section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 required—in the absence of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019—that the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2019; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 also allows the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to revise the budgetary aggregates.

Table with columns: Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include: Original Aggregates Printed on May 7, 2018; Revisions (Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974); Revised Senate Resolution.

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

Table with columns: 2018, 2019, 2018–2023, 2018–2028. Rows include: Beginning Balance, Enacted Legislation (Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protections Act, etc.), and various other legislative acts.

—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

Table with 5 columns: Measure, 2018, 2019, 2018-2023, 2018-2028. Rows include FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Patient Right to Know Drug Act of 2018, Orrin G. Hatch-Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act, etc.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: P.L. = Public Law, \* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.

<sup>a</sup> On May 7, 2018, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.

<sup>b</sup> The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes off-budget amounts.

<sup>d</sup> Pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C.Res. 290 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve's surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of \$655 million in fiscal year 2019, \$570 million over the 2019-2023 period, and \$454 million over the 2019-2028 period.

<sup>e</sup> The budgetary effects of this Act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 512 of the Act.

<sup>f</sup> Division I of P.L. 115-254 contains the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018, which provided \$1,680 million in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. At the direction of the Committees on the Budget, and consistent with the language in section 1701, those amounts are shown as discretionary spending.

<sup>g</sup> The budgetary effects of this Act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 8231 of the Act.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF POINTS OF ORDER RAISED SINCE THE FY 2019 ENFORCEMENT FILING

Table with 6 columns: Vote, Date, Measure, Violation, Motion to Waive, Result. Rows include H.R. 5515—John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, and S. Amdt #3695 to H.R. 6157, the Defense, Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act.

<sup>1</sup> Senator Sanders raised a section 4106(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress) point of order against the bill because the bill would increase the on-budget deficit.

<sup>2</sup> By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to a roll call vote to waive the point of order.

<sup>3</sup> This surgical point of order would have struck lines 7-8 of page 270 in Division B (Title III) of the substitute amendment, which was related to the Pell Grant program. This provision was a Change in Mandatory Program (CHIMP) estimated to increase spending by \$390 million over 10 years.

TRIBUTE TO MAE STEVENS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mae Stevens, a member of my legislative staff, for her service on my behalf to the people of Maryland and the Nation. Mae Stevens has served as my environmental policy adviser since 2015. In this role, she has advanced my priorities as the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She has dedicated much of her time as a member of my staff to formulating and advancing sound policies at the intersection of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, source water protection, equity, and affordability. I very much appreciate all that we achieved during her tenure in my office. Mae has spent more than 7 years on Capitol Hill and,

9 years prior to that, at various non-profit environmental organizations.

Mae enrolled at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs to earn a master of public administration from Columbia's Earth Institute. After Mae received her MPA, she worked as a policy adviser in the clean energy program at Third Way. From there, she joined the office of Representative Russ Carnahan, who represented Missouri's Third Congressional District. Later, she worked for Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania, who represented the 17th Congressional District at the time.

Mae learned about hard work from her parents. Her father Raymond "Art" Stevens owned an ice cream parlor in Royal Oak, MI, and her mother Jaky Van Dox dressed mannequins in clothing stores in the metro Detroit area. They spent every extra penny they had on ice skating lessons for their daughter,

teaching her the grit, dedication, and perseverance she uses every day in my office. I know they are extremely proud of the good work she has done in my office and will continue to do in private sector.

Mae believes that people in every community across America—urban, rural, and suburban—have a right to expect that the water coming from their tap is safe to drink and that Congress will do everything within its power to ensure that happens. Mae helped me to ensure that, for the third Water Resources Development Act—WRDA—in a row, Congress included updates to our Nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to meet our water infrastructure backlog demands, while addressing the needs of our communities and our environment.

Mae also fought for Maryland priorities in the Senate's 2018 WRDA, including helping me double the amount of Federal funding spent on drinking water infrastructure, nationally and at the State level, and reauthorize the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, WIFIA, a low-cost financing mechanism for large water infrastructure projects. Baltimore, MD, is one of 12 projects in nine States that will receive the first of the WIFIA grants in 2019. This will help the 1.8 million people served by the Baltimore Department of Public Works continue to have some of the cleanest, safest, and more reliable drinking water in the country.

Clean water is not a partisan issue, and Mae worked with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle and Capitol Hill to develop legislation that will benefit our aging water resources and infrastructure. The Senate passed the 2018 WRDA reauthorization by a vote of 99-1, a testament to the hard, bipartisan work of the majority and minority staff on EPW, personal staff like Mae, and the committee members. I was proud to be involved.

Mae conscientiously strives to reduce her personal carbon footprint. One way she does this is by commuting to and from work on her bike. She helped me to increase funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program, TAP, and ensure that cities and counties continue to have a voice in how Federal dollars are spent on these important programs in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation—FAST—Act.

As the British primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall has said, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make." I want to thank Mae Stevens for the difference she has decided to make—and will continue to make—and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Of course, even though she is leaving the Hill, she will always be a member of Team Cardin.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DICK BARCLAY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember and pay tribute to Dick Barclay. Dick was a friend and civic leader from Rogers, AR, who passed away from complications due to Alzheimer's last week at the age of 81.

Born in Oberlin, KS, Dick attended Kansas State University before his honeymoon brought him to Arkansas. Dick and Jan eventually moved to Rogers where Dick, along with his brother Charles, opened a successful public accounting firm that served the area for decades. When I first moved to Rogers in the 1970s, naturally, Dick was one of the first people I met and someone I quickly grew to lean on and turn to for his consistently sound advice.

In addition to his successful career as a trusted accountant in northwest Arkansas, Dick put his belief in community service into practice throughout his entire life. He served in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1976 until 1992. In 1996, he joined Governor Mike Huckabee's administration, where he put his financial expertise to use as executive director of budget, legislative affairs, and policy. He went on to become Arkansas's chief fiscal officer and directed the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration in 1999.

Dick didn't believe that holding public office alone was where his call to service ended, though. He was active among many different groups and organizations that worked to improve life in Rogers and in greater northwest Arkansas. A few such roles included serving on the board of the Northwest Arkansas Community College Foundation, as president and board member of the Rogers Little Theater, chairman of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce, commissioner of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, member and president of the Northwest Arkansas Council, and chairman of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. He also led the Benton County Republican Party for a time.

A man of strong faith, Dick was a board chair and elder at First Christian Church in Rogers. One of his sons went on to lead services at Fellowship Bible Church, and Dick, along with his wife, was proud to attend services there to show his support. He has already been remembered by others as being a devoted family man and a person of principle and integrity with the highest ethics. He was all these things and more, including a talented musician who played in a bluegrass band with friends and also performed with a barbershop quartet.

As a former colleague described him, Dick Barclay was a "quintessential public servant." He had a tremendous impact across northwest Arkansas. His example of leadership and dedication are truly worthy of emulation by anyone who wishes to do the important work required to better their own town, community, and entire state.

I greatly admired and respected Dick and will feel his loss keenly, as will so many others in Rogers and throughout Benton County and northwest Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with Jan and the entire Barclay family at this difficult time. Dick's legacy of service, his ever-present positivity, and the difference he made in countless lives will be remembered for years to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL WILLIAMS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Marshall Williams of Powder River County for his impact on the community of Broadus.

Marshall has spent the last 39 years educating students in the small south-

east Montana community and ensuring their future success. Mr. Williams recently received the 2018 Montana Career and Technical Education Lifetime Achievement Award. The Association for Career and Technical Education is a nationwide organization who recognize career and technical educators for their professionalism and leadership in their field. They are one of the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education. This prestigious award is for dedicated educators who have spent an extended period of time in their respective fields.

Mr. Williams has selflessly given to each of his students, dedicating his time and efforts to ensure their success. Marshall is currently a teacher at Broadus High School, where he teaches ag education and shop. Mr. Williams is constantly looking for ways to improve student's education, as he works closely with teachers, administrators, and even local businesses as a means of open communication on how to progress their communities' education system.

I congratulate Marshall on being a selfless educator to the Broadus community. I look forward to seeing his success continue to grow as each of his students goes on to achieve their own success.●

##### TRIBUTE TO HOLLY GATLING

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Holly Gatling's dedicated service as the executive director of South Carolina Citizens for Life.

Holly earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina in 1972. While at the University of South Carolina, she served as a copy editor for "The State" newspaper. She went on to work for several newspapers across South Carolina, including as a feature writer from 1976 to 1990 for "The State."

As a stalwart champion for the unborn, Holly has effectively lobbied the South Carolina General Assembly in support of pro-life laws. Some of these laws included Woman's Right to Know, Partial Birth Abortion Ban, and Safe Haven for Abandoned Newborns. She was also instrumental in ushering Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection to Governor Nikki Haley's desk for signature in 2016.

I am proud to have worked closely with her on many pro-life issues, including the Pain Capable legislation in the U.S. Senate. I know that one day we too will pass this important legislation into law.

I am extremely proud of her work for the unborn and know she has made a difference in the lives of thousands of South Carolinians. She is a model for public servants, and I am honored to congratulate my friend Holly Gatling on her 25 years of service to others in South Carolina, across the United States of America, and around the world.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KRAFT

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert Kraft of Massachusetts, the 2019 Genesis prize laureate. Recognized as the “Jewish Nobel” prize, organizers grant the award each year to an extraordinary person recognized for their outstanding professional achievement and making a significant contribution to improving the world and inspiring young Jews through their dedication to social justice and philanthropy. I believe the Genesis prize committee made an excellent choice in selecting Mr. Kraft.

While known to most as the owner of the New England Patriots, Mr. Kraft, along with his late wife Myra, has for decades spoke out and donated generously to organizations combating prejudices, including anti-Semitism. Most recently, Mr. Kraft announced that all proceeds of the match between his Major League Soccer team, the New England Revolution, and the Chelsea Football Club will benefit initiatives to combat the disturbing trend of rising anti-Semitism and hate crimes in the United States and around the world. Upon receiving the Genesis prize, Mr. Kraft announced he would donate the \$1 million monetary award to efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

Mr. Kraft is a true “patriot” in all senses of the word. The Commonwealth, country, and global community owe much gratitude to Mr. Kraft. I congratulate my dear friend Robert Kraft on his lifelong efforts to further the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, to heal the world.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TATUM ASHBY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Tatum Ashby, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Tatum is a student at Southeastern University, where she is majoring in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tatum for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE GRAY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Charlie Gray, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Charlie is a student at Rollins College, where he is majoring in environmental studies with a minor in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Charlie for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE HUSEBO

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Caroline Husebo, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Caroline is a graduate from Circle Christian School and interned during her gap year. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caroline for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY PARK

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Mary Park, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Mary is a graduate of the University of Florida, where she is majored in political science and African-American studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA SCOTT

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Victoria Scott, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Victoria is a student at Rollins College, where she is majoring in political science and international relations. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Victoria for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RYLEIGH WOGOMAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Ryleigh Wogoman, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Ryleigh is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in political science. She is a

dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ryleigh for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING OCEANA COFFEE ROASTERS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the first Small Business of the Week of the 116th Congress. Each week this Congress, I will honor a small business that exemplifies the hard work and perseverance of the American entrepreneur. The great State of Florida is home to businesses of all types, from family-run farms in Ocala to aerospace machinists in Cape Canaveral. Today, it is my distinct pleasure to honor a small business with a strong commitment to the quality of its products and a desire to give back to its community. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize Oceana Coffee Roasters as this year’s first Small Business of the Week.

Amy and Scott Angelo founded Oceana Coffee Roasters in 2009 with only a \$35 coffee roaster, converted from a popcorn machine, and the goal of bringing freshly roasted coffee to their area. Located in Tequesta, FL, Amy and Scott founded the company after they were unable to find a local coffee roaster that produced fresh, small-batch coffee. Seeing an opportunity, the Angelos began by roasting just a quarter-cup of coffee at a time, experimenting with different types of beans and roasting techniques.

From a popcorn popper in their kitchen, to roasting 50,000 pounds of beans a year, the Angelos have remained focused on the details of producing high-quality, small-batch, whole bean and ground coffee. In order to meet their high standards, Scott and Amy learned all they could about how coffee beans are grown, where the best beans originate, and how to bring out the best flavor in each type of bean. They also researched the fair trade coffee process, how coffee is harvested and transported, and the logistics of importing beans to their Florida small business. Through their diligent study and a trial and error process, the Angelos harnessed their entrepreneurial spirit to understand their customers’ desires and make a product they are proud of. In 2016, the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce recognized Oceana Coffee as the Small Business of the Year and SCORE of Palm Beach County recognized them for entrepreneurial excellence. Also in 2016, they were the overall winner for the Golden Bean North America Award, which is the world’s largest coffee roaster competition.

As the business has grown, the company has periodically added new coffee

varieties from around the world to its product line. Instead of focusing on large production runs of one type of coffee, Oceana produces small batches of shade-grown, Guatemalan, Ethiopian, and Costa Rican coffee for all types of coffee consumers. Their success has also led to expansion, with Amy and Scott adding a second location in Palm Beach County while increasing e-commerce sales and direct shipments to reach approximately 100 wholesale customers.

The Angelos are committed to their community and doing right by the people they do business with. Every quarter, Oceana makes a donation to a charitable organization voted on by its customers under an initiative they call Cup of Kindness. Oceana Coffee also gives back by offering internships to adults with autism by partnering with Jupiter, FL-based Els for Autism so that affected individuals can gain workforce experience. Additionally, the Angelos provide a platform to local artists, authors, and other small businesses in the area. Each month, the shop hosts a showcase to help these entrepreneurs gain exposure.

The Angelos care about the community of growers they work with, as they purchase their coffee beans from small, fair-trade farmers that they interact with directly and visit regularly. They have also made a commitment to reduce waste through the use of reusable straws and recyclable cutlery and containers.

Oceana Coffee Roasters has found its niche and expanded as a company, while keeping its commitment to quality and principles. The Angelos' love of quality coffee, commitment to their community, and painstaking review of the coffee making process has made the company a leader in its community and created a loyal customer base. Again, I would like to congratulate Scott, Amy, and all of the employees at Oceana Coffee Roasters for being named the Small Business of the Week. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 226. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include best in class designations in the annual report on small business goals prepared by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 226. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include best in class designations in the annual report on small business goals

prepared by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 251. An act to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 264. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.R. 269. An act to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved drug application, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 109. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-58. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress Section 889 of the Fiscal Year 2018 NDAA Report on Defense Contracting Fraud"; to the Committees on Armed Services; and Appropriations.

EC-59. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2018 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-60. A communication from the Program Specialist (Paperwork Reduction Act), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations" (RIN1557-AE54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-61. A communication from the Program Specialist (Paperwork Reduction Act), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Depository Institutions and US Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks" (RIN1557-AE37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-62. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Control of Military Electronic Equipment and Other Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML); Correction" (RIN0694-AH64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-63. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Strategic Petroleum Reserve Annual Report for Calendar Year 2017"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-64. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DI&C-ISC-06, Licensing Process, Interim Staff Guidance, Revision 2" (10 CFR Part 50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-65. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Status of Risk Adjustment in Medicare Advantage 2018"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-66. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year 2018 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-67. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Tenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-68. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of FERPA Enforcement" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-69. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for USAID's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-70. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Social and Economic Conditions of Native Americans: Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-71. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to eleven (11) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr.

WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 73. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 74. A bill to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 75. A bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 76. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 77. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of transmissible diseases are eligible for disaster relief; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 78. A bill to ensure a complete analysis of the potential impacts of rules on small entities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 79. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 80. A bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 81. A bill to adjust the eastern boundary of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 82. A bill to designate the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 83. A bill to amend section 203 of Public Law 94-305 to ensure proper authority for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. JONES):

S. 84. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 85. A bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 86. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 87. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 88. A bill to redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 89. A bill to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 90. A bill to limit the establishment or extension of national monuments in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 91. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SASSE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. LEE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 92. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 93. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 94. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the

establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 95. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 96. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 97. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 98. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 99. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formulary by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 100. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to Custer County, South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 101. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 102. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 103. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 104. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SASSE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 105. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. JONES):

S. 106. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 107. A bill to provide any State with a child welfare demonstration project that is scheduled to terminate at the end of fiscal year 2019 the option to extend the project for up to 2 additional years; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 108. A bill to provide deferred action for certain individuals brought to the United States and to establish a border security trust fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 109. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; read the first time.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 110. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a permanent extension of the lower income threshold for the medical expense deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 111. A bill to make continuing appropriations for certain employees of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice in the event of a shutdown of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 14. A resolution affirming that the Government of Cuba's foreign medical missions constitute human trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 15. A resolution commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for

winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 16. A resolution relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 24

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 24, a bill to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to provide that Members of

Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 71, a bill to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 72

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 72, a bill to suspend the enforcement of certain civil liabilities of Federal employees and contractors during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 93. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act, a bill that will assure the health and safety of the residents of Contra Costa County while also providing for the efficient delivery of water from the Bay Delta to the customers of the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). Senator HARRIS is joining me in cosponsoring the bill, and I understand that Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, JERRY MCNERNEY, and MIKE THOMPSON are introducing a House companion measure today as well.

I will be brief in explaining the reasons I support the bill, which I introduced with Senator HARRIS. The bill would transfer title to the Contra Costa Canal from the United States to Contra Costa Water District ("District"). The District has fully paid off



the capital debt for constructing the canal, so it is financially reasonable to transfer the 48-mile long canal to it. There is no known opposition to the bill, and several good reasons to support it.

The District would like to convert the existing open earthen canal to a closed pipe at an estimated cost to the district ratepayers of \$650 million. The District understandably wants to take title to the facilities to have collateral for issuing bonds to cover the expense of the conversion.

There are a number of good reasons to convert the existing canal to a pipe:

First, 82 people have drowned in the earthen canal despite protective fencing in the 70 years since the Canal began operation. This is about a death per year on average, which would be completely prevented if the canal were converted into a pipe. Tragically, there was another drowning in the canal just last year.

A second reason is water conservation. Drought is always an issue in California, and water is becoming more and more expensive. About 6% of the canal's water is lost through evaporation and seepage. A pipeline would eliminate these losses.

A third reason is avoiding flood risk from the earthen canal. When the canal was built 70 years ago, much of the surrounding land was farming country, but more recently homes have been built around it. These homes are at risk from the types of floods that earthen canals periodically experience.

Finally, the 70-year old canal is nearing the end of its lifespan and needs a major facility upgrade or replacement. Replacement with a pipeline is the best option, for all the reasons set forth above.

Besides the advantages of the bill, there is no known opposition to it. The District has reached an MOU with East Bay Regional Parks District to continue the existing recreational uses of the adjoining parks it manages. In addition, the District has received letters of concurrence from the City Managers of Walnut Creek and Antioch regarding the smaller parks managed by the cities along the route of the existing canal. Like East Bay Regional Parks, these cities agree the bill would preserve the existing recreational uses of the adjoining lands.

The bill would not just transfer title to Contra Costa Canal, but would also authorize the transfer of the Rock Slough intake and fish screen, one of Contra Costa's diversion points from the Delta. This transfer will not affect the applicability of the various biological opinions that apply to the facility. As I understand it, because the bill will not affect the environmental management of the canal, and because the District has paid off its capital debt, the environmental groups NRDC and the Defenders of Wildlife will not oppose the bill.

In summary, this bill has no known opposition and good reasons to support.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 100. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to Custer County, South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 100

*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 "Custer County Airport Conveyance Act".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Custer County, South Dakota.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 65.7 acres of National Forest System land, as generally depicted on the map.

(3) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Custer County Airport Conveyance" and dated October 19, 2017.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

**SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the terms and conditions described in subsection (b), if the County submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the Federal land for the market value, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c), the Secretary shall convey the Federal land to the County.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

- (1) subject to valid existing rights;
- (2) made by quitclaim deed; and
- (3) subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal to determine the market value of the Federal land.

(2) STANDARDS.—The appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(d) MAP.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.

(2) CORRECTION OF ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any errors in the map.

(e) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the Federal land, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c).

(f) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be deter-

mined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(g) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition on the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay to the Secretary all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

- (1) the appraisal under subsection (c); and
- (2) the survey under subsection (f).

(h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—Any proceeds received by the Secretary from the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(2) available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of inholdings in units of the National Forest System in the State of South Dakota.

—————  
SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS  
—————

SENATE RESOLUTION 14—AFFIRMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S FOREIGN MEDICAL MISSIONS CONSTITUTE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 14

Whereas, in 2015, the Government of Cuba maintained more than 50,000 Cuban doctors and medical personnel in foreign medical missions in 67 countries under conditions that represent forced labor;

Whereas the Department of States' 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report noted that Cuban authorities coerced some participants to remain in the foreign medical missions, including by—

- (1) "withholding their passports [and] restricting their movement";
- (2) "using 'minders' to monitor participants outside of work";
- (3) "threatening to revoke their medical licenses";
- (4) "retaliat[ing] against their family members in Cuba if participants leave the program"; or
- (5) "impos[ing] exile if participants didn't return to Cuba as directed by government supervisors";

Whereas, between 2013 and 2018, more than 20,000 Cuban medical professionals served in Brazil and had their salaries garnished, movement restricted, and family visits limited by the Government of Cuba;

Whereas investigative reporting by the digital platform *Diario de Cuba*, through an access to information request, revealed that Brazilian diplomatic cables detailed the terms of the Government of Cuba's medical missions to Brazil;

Whereas, in early 2012, the Government of Cuba proposed to the Government of Brazil the establishment of a program to send Cuban doctors to geographic regions of Brazil that had an insufficient number of medical personnel;

Whereas, during subsequent negotiations, the administration of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff proposed an agreement between the two governments to be implemented through coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in order to avoid oversight by the National Congress of Brazil;

Whereas the Government of Cuba stated that implementing the agreement through

the United States headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization would present risks for potential violations of United States sanctions;

Whereas, in July 2013, the Government of Cuba, acting through the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (Comercializadora de Servicios Médicos Cubanos, Sociedad Anónima, or CMS), signed an agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Health to formalize a commercial arrangement for Cuban doctors to provide medical services in Brazil;

Whereas the agreement between the Government of Cuba and the Government of Brazil established—

(1) that the administration of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff would pay the Pan American Health Organization a monthly fee, which would then pay the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) for the medical services provided by each Cuban doctor serving in Brazil;

(2) that the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) would pay each Cuban doctor approximately 25 percent of the monthly payment received from the Pan American Health Organization;

(3) that the Government of Cuba, acting through the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS), would retain approximately 75 percent of the monthly payment received from the Pan American Health Organization; and

(4) restrictions preventing participating Cuban doctors from seeking employment in Brazil outside of the formal structure of the program;

Whereas, in July 2013, the Government of Brazil announced the creation of the Mais Medicos program, which included the participation of Cuban doctors and doctors of other nationalities;

Whereas the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) commenced contracting Cuban doctors for the Mais Medicos program, and the first Cuban medical professionals arrived in Brazil in August 2013;

Whereas Cuban doctors were the only medical professionals participating in the Mais Medicos program to have their salaries directly garnished by their government, and doctors of other nationalities serving in Brazil received the full amount of their salary;

Whereas Cuban doctors participating in the Mais Medicos program faced severe limitations on their ability to travel inside Brazil and a prohibition on travel to neighboring countries;

Whereas Cuban doctors participating in the Mais Medicos program were prohibited from having their families accompany them while stationed in Brazil;

Whereas the Cuban doctors frequently had their passports taken by Government of Cuba officials present in Brazil in order to limit their ability to travel;

Whereas the Department of State's 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report documented how the Government of Cuba also confiscated Cuban doctors' passports in other countries, and stated that "the Cuban government acknowledges that it withholds passports of overseas medical personnel in Venezuela";

Whereas the Pan American Health Organization's external auditor, the Spanish Court of Audit—

(1) stated in its January 2018 report that 198 Cuban doctors have presented 159 legal challenges in the Brazilian court system since the start of the program in July 2013 demanding extra free time in their contracts and equal working conditions as doctors of other nationalities participating in the Mais Medicos program; and

(2) stated in its April 2014 report, in recognition of the legal risks associated with the Mais Medicos program, that it would be "prudent that PAHO set a contingency plan to face possible negative statements of [the] lawsuits";

Whereas the Government of Cuba has stated that Cuban doctors unwilling to return to the country after their participation in foreign medical missions will not be permitted to return to their homeland for eight years;

Whereas the Government of Cuba directly profits from exporting the services of Cuban professionals, having earned more than \$8,000,000,000 from their work in 2016, of which foreign medical missions represent the majority of the income; and

Whereas the term "severe forms of trafficking in persons" is defined under section 103(9)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)(B)) as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery"; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of Cuba subjected Cuban doctors and medical professional participating in the Mais Medicos program to state-sponsored human trafficking;

(2) Cuban doctors participating in the Mais Medicos program should have been permitted to work under the same conditions as all other foreign doctors participating in the program;

(3) the Government of Cuba should compensate Cuban doctors that participated in the Mais Medicos programs for the full amount of wages that were garnished by the Government of Cuba;

(4) foreign governments that sign agreements with the Government of Cuba or the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) or other companies affiliated with the Government of Cuba to procure the services of Cuban professionals directly assume risks related to participation in forced labor arrangements;

(5) the Pan American Health Organization must immediately provide greater transparency about its participation in the Mais Medicos program and its agreement with the Government of Cuba and the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS);

(6) the United States Department of State must downgrade Cuba to Tier 3 in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, given new evidence on Cuba's foreign medical missions and the Government of Cuba's longstanding failure to criminalize most forms of forced labor; and

(7) the Department of State must reestablish the Cuban Medical Professionals Parole (CMPP) program.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 15—COMMENDING THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 15

Whereas, on Monday, January 7, 2019, the Clemson University Tigers football team won the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship (in this preamble re-

ferred to as the "championship game") by defeating the University of Alabama by a score of 44 to 16 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California;

Whereas the Tigers finished the championship game with 482 yards of total offense on 63 plays;

Whereas the victory by the Tigers in the championship game—

(1) made Clemson the first Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS)-level team to finish a season 15–0 since the University of Pennsylvania in 1897; and

(2) marked the second time in 3 years that Clemson won a National Championship game;

Whereas the head coach of Clemson, Dabo Swinney, has been an outstanding role model to the Clemson players and the Clemson community;

Whereas Trevor Lawrence, the first true freshman starter to win a national title since 1985, gave an outstanding performance by throwing for 347 yards and 3 touchdowns;

Whereas Travis Etienne had 14 carries for 86 yards including 2 rushing touchdowns and a passing touchdown;

Whereas the Clemson University football team displayed outstanding dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the 2018 collegiate football season in achieving the highest honor in college football; and

Whereas the Tigers have brought pride and honor to the State of South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Clemson University Tigers for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship;

(2) recognizes the on-field and off-field achievements of the players, coaches, and staff of the Clemson football team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Clemson University, James P. Clements; and

(B) the head coach of the Clemson University football team, Dabo Swinney.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 16—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JOHN CHESTER CULVER, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms.

ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 16

Relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa.

Whereas John Chester Culver was born in Rochester, Minnesota and grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa;

Whereas John Chester Culver graduated from Harvard University and Harvard Law School;

Whereas John Chester Culver served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1955-1958;

Whereas John Chester Culver was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1964 and served 5 terms as a Representative from the State of Iowa;

Whereas John Chester Culver was elected to the United States Senate in 1974 and served the people of Iowa in the Senate with honor and distinction for 1 term;

Whereas as a Senator, John Chester Culver spearheaded a commission to modernize the procedures of the Senate, including an increased use of computerized floor status updates and committee schedules;

Whereas John Chester Culver was known for his hard work and independence; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Chester Culver, former member of the United States Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable John Chester Culver.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan

Edwards and Kim Binsted, AAAS fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMENDING THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 15, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 15) commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the 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 (S. Res. 15) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JOHN CHESTER CULVER, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 16, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 16) relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the 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 (S. Res. 16) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control for the 116th Congress: The Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas, Chairman; The Honorable CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa; The Honorable JAMES RISCH of Idaho; The Honorable DAVID PERDUE of Georgia.

The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of section 1501 of Public Law 115-254, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, appoints the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group: Chris Tuttle, of Virginia.

## MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 109

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 109) to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

## ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, January 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 16 and do so as a further mark of respect to the late John Culver, former Senator from the State of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 16, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019, and does so as a further mark of respect for the late John Chester Culver, former Senator from Iowa. Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:59 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 11, 2019, at 10 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING WELLSPACE HEALTH

#### HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WellSpace Health for their commitment to high quality comprehensive health care in the Sacramento region and congratulate them as they celebrate over 65 years of service in 2019.

The Family Service Agency of Greater Sacramento (FSA) opened in 1953 as a mental health treatment and prevention organization. FSA provided treatment services, child abuse prevention, and a suicide prevention crisis line. In 2005, FSA merged with The Aquarian Effort (The Effort), a free clinic designed to address substance use disorders. The Effort became a community clinic as their programs drew more high need persons to preventive health care. FSA's emphasis on mental health care has continued through its merger with the Effort and in 2013, the Effort was renamed WellSpace Health after their mergers with several health care providers concentrated on the underserved.

WellSpace Health's development has focused on serving our region's low income populations alongside integration of services to provide comprehensive health care for its patients. Between 2009 and 2017, WellSpace increased its primary care service population from 3,000 to 70,000 patients through 15 Community Health Centers in the Sacramento region. Along with primary care for all ages, WellSpace also provides adolescent dental care, women's health and prenatal care, and behavioral health treatment.

I've known the great work WellSpace has done for the region for many years as I had the privilege to work with WellSpace back when it was the Aquarian Effort Clinic. WellSpace's work is critical to achieving first rate regional health care in Sacramento. I extend my sincere congratulations to the front-line employees, staff, and all the nurses and doctors at WellSpace. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and all it has done to provide access to health care for all in the Sacramento region.

### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF OKLAHOMA STATE LIBRARIAN SUSAN McVEY

#### HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Susan McVey, State Librarian of Oklahoma. Susan McVey will be retiring at the end of January after 32 dedicated years of service to Oklahoma. For the past 18 years, she has served as the first

female State Librarian. Prior to that, Susan served the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in a number of different capacities. As President of the Oklahoma Library Association, Susan received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Association, for exemplary service to the state's library community. She was honored as an Oklahoma Library Legend. She has served as President of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and has received the designation of Honored One from the National Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

Susan McVey has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to the education of Oklahomans time and time again. Under her leadership, Oklahoma's public libraries were included in the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund, providing rural Oklahomans access to free high speed broadband in their local libraries. She successfully secured the first statewide access to online reference resources for Oklahoma's nearly 1,300 private, public, and school libraries. She is responsible for obtaining \$4 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide public access computers in every public library in Oklahoma.

I am honored to recognize Susan McVey today before the United States House of Representatives. Well done on a lifetime of service to Oklahoma and congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

### RECOGNIZING JAY KOHN OF BILLINGS

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Kohn of Billings for serving as a reliable source for Montanans as a journalist and anchor for nearly four decades.

Kohn recently signed off the air after more than 20 years as a news anchor with KTVQ in Billings and the Montana Television Network (MTN).

Kohn began his broadcast career in Helena in 1978 and worked as MTN's Capitol Bureau chief and news director in Butte.

In 1998, Kohn assumed the anchor seat at KTVQ in Billings, the city where he was born and raised. Over the last two decades he has been the face of Q2 news, anchoring the 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts. He has covered countless news events, keeping the community informed about local stories and others that span the globe.

Kohn's exceptional reporting earned him the Montana Broadcasters Association's Broadcaster of the Year award in 2005.

Though Kohn has retired from his full-time role at the anchor desk, Montanans will continue to enjoy his steady presence in his new role as Anchor Emeritus for KTVQ.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding professionalism, unwavering journalistic integrity,

and his decades of trusted service to the people of Montana, I recognize Jay Kohn for his spirit of Montana.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERGLADES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.

Protection and restoration of the Everglades is vital to the overall health of both South Florida's ecosystem and economy. As America's largest sub-tropical wilderness, it is the source of much of Florida's drinking water, an important flood barrier and a home for wildlife, including a number of endangered species.

As we know all too well, this vital ecosystem is facing a number of threats, and while much progress has been made, including the recent authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project, there is still much work left to be done. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bi-partisan support for restoration.

Regardless of any progress, it is clear that restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of Engineers to move on many of the remaining projects in order to prevent future Congressional bottlenecking.

Restoration is not a theoretical exercise. The Central Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) has demonstrable successes and biennial reports from the National Academy of Sciences. We know that the federal and state governments can successfully work together with private businesses and landowners to reach mutually beneficial agreements that restore the health of this unique, beautiful, wild, and wonderful resource that is absolutely essential for Florida.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

### IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DOCTOR CAMERON MADISON ALEXANDER

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished civil rights leader, an inspirational

• 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.

spiritual leader, and true man of God, Reverend Doctor Cameron Madison Alexander, the beloved Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North in Atlanta, Georgia. Sadly, Reverend Alexander transitioned from labor to reward on Sunday, December 30, 2018. He leaves in his wake many heavy hearts among his church family, community, and across the world. His funeral service was held on January 7, 2019, at 11 am at Antioch Baptist Church North located at 540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA, 30318. What a celebration of life it was.

Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander was born to the union of Reverend Homer M. and Augusta (Hutchins) Alexander on February 12, 1932. A product of the Atlanta Public School System, he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1948, where he played football, ran track, and played saxophone in the band. After high school, he attended Florida A&M University, was in the Marching 100 band, and served his country in the United States Air Force. He then attended Morehouse College under President Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, received his Master of Divinity degree from the Morehouse School of Religion, served there as the President and Treasurer as well as Trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine. In recognition of his numerous contributions to society, he was awarded Honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from the United Theological Seminary (1978), the Interdenominational Theological Center (1991), and Carver Bible College (2007).

His pastoral ministry began at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cartersville, Georgia. From there he was called to the Flagg Chapel Baptist Church in Milledgeville, Georgia, then in 1958 to New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Macon where he became an activist leader against injustice, resulting in desegregation of the city buses, lunch counters, the Bowden Golf Course, and Mercer University. In 1965, Rev. Alexander was called to St. John Baptist Church in Savannah where he took his ministry beyond the church walls and formed a partnership with C&S Bank to improve 109 blocks of real estate in Savannah and provide affordable housing and jobs.

In 1969, while visiting Antioch as a guest, Reverend Alexander delivered a sermon so powerful that the church voted by write-in the next day to call him as Pastor. For almost 50 years, he was the driving force behind Antioch Baptist Church North. Under his leadership, the church grew from 600 members with an annual budget of less than \$40,000 to 14,000 members and a multi-million dollar annual budget. He established over 75 ministries and outreach programs touching communities in Atlanta and across the world.

Rev. Alexander's extraordinary servant leadership was prolific. For 29 years, he served as President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia which claims a membership of more than 800 churches; Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; and Dean for the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress. He trained, licensed, and ordained 600 ministers, 150 of whom went on to pastor other churches. He established the Antioch International Macedonian Missionaries (AIMM) ministry to touch "the least of these" beyond our nation's borders, addressing issues of inadequate safe drinking water, food, and medical care in Haiti,

South Africa, Turkey, Columbia, and Brazil where AIMM facilitated opening the first university for black Brazilians known as Afrobras.

The City of Atlanta honored Dr. Alexander by naming a street for him. He was inducted into Atlanta Business League's Legends Hall of Fame and the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. He was invited to submit one of his inaugural sermons to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress which became part of the oral history and spoken word collections that preserve Americans' accounts of and reactions to important cultural events.

On a personal note, I met Dr. Alexander 40 years ago through my Pastor and his good friend, Dr. J.H. Flakes, Jr. of the Fourth Street Baptist Church of Columbus. His friendship, advice, and counsel were pivotal in my political career in The Georgia General Assembly and in Congress. I am better for having known him.

Dr. Alexander accomplished much in his life; yet, none of it would have been possible but for the Grace of God and the love and support of his family—including his beloved wife, Barbara; their four children, Gregory (deceased), Cameron, Kenneth, and Barbara; and his nine grandchildren, all of whom will miss him deeply.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the nation salute Reverend Doctor Cameron Madison Alexander for his outstanding accomplishments in the ministry and his service to humankind. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Reverend Alexander's family, friends, loved ones, and all who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.  
ROBERT HAND

**HON. SUZAN K. DeLBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Hand who was named Teacher of the Year in Washington State. Mr. Hand is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Mount Vernon High School, in my district. This award goes to teachers who display an unwavering commitment to the success of their students.

Mr. Hand has been teaching at Mount Vernon since 2013. He has taught Beginning Foods, Life After High School, and Careers in Education, Nutrition, and Leadership. Along with being an outstanding teacher, he has also held important roles throughout our community, including as an adviser for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America and for the Social Justice Club.

Mr. Hand's outreach to students extends beyond the classroom. His teachings often relate back to his students, in uplifting ways. Mr. Hand is a champion of diversity and has recognized the diversity of his students by displaying eleven flags in his classroom to celebrate their heritage.

He is working to continue critical investments in our teachers by helping to develop the Recruiting Washington Teachers program for the Professional Educator Standards Board. Because of his work, Washington students will have quality teachers and mentors for years to come.

I want to thank Robert Hand for his commitment to serving his students and enriching the teaching profession in Washington State. Congratulations, Mr. Hand.

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TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR  
AZALEE C. BISHOP

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Azalee C. Bishop, a faithful Christian servant and a trailblazing humanitarian. Dr. Bishop and I are of the same generation, and I am honored to extend best wishes on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Dr. Bishop is an honors graduate of Gallman High School, Class of 1956. She went on to pursue her undergraduate degree at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon graduation, she completed graduate studies at Cornell University, Canius College, State University of New York in Buffalo, and Pentecostal Overcoming Outreach School of Religion in Columbia, South Carolina. She spent years as a dedicated wife and mother, and then earned her doctorate degree at Spirit and Truth Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

Her legacy is Grace Christian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, which was established under the vision and leadership of Rev. Dr. Bishop and her husband, Bishop Robert L. Bishop. The initial worship service was held on May 12, 1982 with seventy-seven faithfuls in attendance. The Bishops grew the congregation from its original location in a small daycare facility and moved to a site at the Columbia Housing Authority's Latimore Manor Housing Complex in 1984. It continued to thrive, and seven years later moved to 627 Dixie Avenue in Columbia. Grace Christian Church established its current home on October 17, 1995 when it purchased property at 5010 Monticello Road.

Under the vision of Dr. Azalee C. Bishop, the church expanded its mission and in 1998 launched the Grace Divinity College of Biblical Studies. This divinity school is accredited both by the Accrediting Commission International and International Biblical Association. She is also the founder and producer of Morning Break with Jesus, a daily devotional broadcast, that reached thousands of South Carolina listeners.

Dr. Bishop has also sought to improve the quality of life in her community by establishing Grandma's House, an afterschool program for low-income, academically-challenged youth, and The Wisdom Center which is dedicated to embracing wisdom and changing lives. In addition to her work as a pastor and civic leader, Dr. Bishop spent 33-years as a Program Administrator with the Department of Social Services.

Her many memberships and accomplishments include The Greater Columbia Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (Board

Member), The Black Adoption Project (Board Member), Christian Social Relations Women's Missionary Society of South Carolina (Chairperson), Empire State Baptist Educational Center (Instructor), National Baptist Educational Association (Member), State PTA (Life Member) and the NAACP.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me in celebration of the life and contributions of this extraordinary woman. Rev. Dr. Azalee C. Bishop is a true civic and spiritual leader. She has left a lasting legacy that stands as a testament to her tremendous life's work and an example for others to emulate.

HONORING BEN FALKOWSKI FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO INDIANA'S 2ND  
DISTRICT

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Falkowski for his service to Indiana's 2nd District as Chief of Staff in my office. As Ben begins the next chapter in his career, I want to take a moment to reflect on his many achievements and to express my sincerest appreciation for all he has done over the last six years. Ben started working on my team in 2012, with sights set on Washington, D.C. Those who know him would agree that, when Ben sets a goal, he has a knack for achieving it.

In my congressional office here in D.C., he worked his way up from Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant, and he never stopped looking to the future. Ben's hard work, determination, and keen knowledge of public policy and constituent services earned him a trip back to northern Indiana to become my District Director. After two years of steadfastly serving our constituents and leading our district operations, Ben returned to our nation's capital as my Chief of Staff.

In this role, Ben oversaw our team with outstanding leadership that motivated, inspired, and guided everyone to the finish line each and every day.

I could always count on Ben. No matter the time of day or the issue at hand, he was wholeheartedly present and fully prepared to get it done.

I thank Ben for always being my first call. I thank him for never shying away from a challenge. I thank him for helping me fight for hardworking Hoosiers. And I thank him for building up a team of rock stars who share our vision of a brighter future and his passion for making a difference.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ben and thanking him for the part he has played in the historic things we have accomplished for the 2nd District and for the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM  
G. FLANGAS

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to include in the RECORD the following excerpt in remembrance of my longtime friend, Bill Flangas. As you can tell from the following obituary which was printed in the Las Vegas Review Journal on December 30, 2018, Bill was a legend in Nevada. His courageous work at NTS, his generous philanthropy, and his contributions to the local Greek community and church leave a powerful legacy that long will be remembered.

William G. "Bill" Flangas, 91, reposed in the Lord December 23, 2018, surrounded by his family. Bill was born June 4, 1927, in Ely, to Gust William and Poloxene Flangas, both of whom were Greek immigrants from the area of Thermopoly. Poloxene passed away when Bill was just six months old, and Gust was killed about year later in a tragic accident between his car and a train in the heart of Ely. Bill was raised by his Aunt and Uncle, Alexander J. and Fotene Flangas in Ely, along with their three sons, John, Gus and Ernest Flangas. Bill was a lifetime resident of Nevada, having moved to Las Vegas in 1958 from Ely. Bill proudly served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and was part of the initial occupation force in Tokyo. Bill graduated in 1951 from the University of Nevada at Reno with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering, and went to work for the Kennecott Copper Corporation in South America and later in White Pine County. In 1958, Bill completed his Engineer of Mines Degree (E.M.), and was recruited and hired by the Reynolds Electric & Engineering Company ("Reeco"), the prime contractor at the Nevada Test Site in Mercury. After joining Reeco, Bill led the initial efforts to move the atmospheric nuclear weapons testing program at the Nevada Test Site underground. He led the first reentry teams into the tunnels after detonating an atomic device. One such reentry nearly cost him his life. Bill also led the first ever underground recovery of a ground zero after an atomic blast. Many of Bill's efforts in moving the testing of atomic weapons underground are memorialized in a book entitled: "Caging the Dragon." Bill stayed at the Nevada Test Site for 37 years, serving as Tunnel Superintendent and Department Manager, Division Manager, and Vice President. After leaving the Test Site in 1995, Bill became an Underground Mining, Construction & Management Consultant primarily working in Nevada. Bill also served as an underground expert on the Treaty Monitoring Teams for the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET), and traveled to Russia in that capacity on the U.S. Treaty Teams. He was also involved with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) efforts. Bill was also very active in the Community. He was instrumental in youth athletics and in developing baseball and basketball leagues that allowed thousands of kids to play ball. In conjunction with these efforts, Bill led the way in having 11 desperately needed baseball fields lit up by putting the process in motion, putting together the volunteer labor force, and getting all the equipment donated that was necessary to dig power lines and set the power poles. Bill also led the way in the construction of a multimillion dollar gym facility, which was completed in 1976. Through his efforts, the gym was con-

structed using only volunteer labor. In addition, through his efforts all the equipment for construction was donated as well as a vast amount of the construction supplies. The gym was sold to the Boys and Girls Club in 1984 for one dollar, and is known today as the Lied Boys and Girls Club, located on Lindell and Edna in Las Vegas. Bill served as a member, and as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the State Public Works Board from 1964 to 1985. He served on the Mackay School of Mines Advisory Council, whose efforts saved the school's accreditation and kept Nevada's only mining school as one of the best in the Country. He served on the UNLV Athletic Commission, and on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas. He was a Trustee for the University Medical Center Foundation which raised over six million dollars for the Medical Center. Foundation Projects included Southern Nevada's sponsorship of the Children's Miracle Network. He was also instrumental in establishing a monument in Ely to honor those from White Pine County who perished while serving their Country in the Armed Forces going back to 1898. He was appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn to serve as a member of the State Ethics Commission and served as its Vice Chairman. He was the Nevada Engineer of the Year in 1976. He received the Las Vegas Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1979. He received the TV-3 Spirit Award in 1983. He was honored as the 1984 Distinguished Nevadan by the University of Nevada Board of Regents. He received the Award of Excellence in Support of Nuclear Weapons Testing Program in 1992. He received an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree in Human Letters from the Community College of Southern Nevada in 1999, and was honored as the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering Alumnus of the Year in 2007. Bill was a member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for almost 60 years, serving over the years on the Church Parish Council, Building Committee and Audit Committee, and working on many other projects. Bill was an intensely devoted and loving family man. He was preceded in death by son, Albert (Trudi) Flangas. Bill is survived by his wonderful wife, of over 62 years, Marilyn Flangas; his sons, Gus "Billy" (Tamara) Flangas and Gary (Amanda) Flangas; his 10 grandchildren; his brothers, John (Carmen) Flangas and Ernest Flangas; and many other relatives and godchildren. Visitation will be Fri., Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. with a Trisagion following at 5 p.m. Services will be at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 5, all at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 5300 El Camino Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118. At Bill's request, burial will be at noon Mon. Jan. 7, in Ely. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the St. John Building Fund. May his memory be eternal.

HONORING CENTRALIA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT TRUSTEE STEVE HARRIS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take some time today to honor Steve Harris, an elected Trustee for the Centralia School District, who is retiring with honor and distinction, having been changing the lives of students and teachers for decades.

After graduating from California State University Long Beach, Steve brought his talents to teach some of the most academically and

socially challenged students in the region, he began his education career as a learning disability aid eventually becoming an elementary school teacher. When Steve saw a need, he acted, which is why he went back to school himself, where he earned a master's degree with Second Language acquisition so that he could bring a diverse language program to English language learners.

Steve Harris went beyond the classroom and began teaching teachers and developed the prototype for standard-based evaluations, including having served as Chair of the Los Angeles County Consortium for Peer Assistance and Review. Steve went on to become a program specialist for Title I schools and a teachers' union official, where he lobbied countless members of Congress and the California State Legislature on issues relating to advancing student achievement, including for meaningful changes to No Child Left Behind. Steve has been recognized by the President of the United States, legislators, and the countless students whose lives he has impacted.

After retiring as a teacher, Steve first ran for the Centralia School District board of trustees in 2014 on a platform focused on serving the entire child and their family, and won in one of the largest margins of victory in the District's history. As a Trustee, Steve championed serving children more meals after school and during the summer, expanding a local resource center, ensuring adequate raises to employees, bringing improvements to special education, and implementing a local hire agreement on bond construction projects.

Steve retires from the Board of Trustees ready to continue making a difference in his synagogue, neighborhood watch, and most importantly, with his three children. Steve's service will be missed, but his impact will continue.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE DAVID O'SULLIVAN, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor European Union Ambassador to the United States David O'Sullivan, whose invaluable commitment to the bonds of friendship between Europe and the American people has left an indelible mark on the transatlantic alliance. As Co-Chair of the Congressional EU Caucus, I have worked on numerous occasions with Ambassador O'Sullivan to strengthen that alliance, and build upon the great history of partnership between Europe and America.

In November 2014, David O'Sullivan was appointed Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC. Since then, Ambassador O'Sullivan has worked tirelessly to promote transatlantic unity, emphasizing people to people contacts during his travels to all 50 of our states in furtherance of his mission to spread the European Union's message of peace and prosperity for all people. In February of this

year, when he retires from his Ambassadorial role, he will conclude nearly 40 years of service to the European Union. His time as EU Ambassador is thus an appropriate capstone to his long and distinguished career.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, and as a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, Ambassador O'Sullivan has served in a number of senior official posts in the European public service over five decades that saw monumental changes on the European continent. Prior to his appointment as EU Ambassador to the U.S., he was the Chief Operating Officer of the 'European External Action Service', responsible for establishing this new EU diplomatic corps. His other notable positions within the European Commission include Director General for Trade, Secretary General of the European Commission, and Head of European Commission President Prodi's Cabinet.

The transatlantic community has always been a community of values, and this is more important now than ever before. Ambassador O'Sullivan has continuously reminded us that we cannot take the transatlantic alliance for granted. We must build upon the common beliefs that have connected the peoples of Europe and America over the past century: our commitment to democracy, our commitment to the rule of law, and our commitment to the dignity of all people in our own countries and around the world. Today, I thank Ambassador O'Sullivan and his wife Agnes O'Hare, for their service to these ideals, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

HONORING THE SELFLESS SERVICE OF EVERETT FIREFIGHTERS

**HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Ms. DeBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two brave firefighters from Washington State. Earlier this year Firefighter Brent Duckworth from South Everett and Capt. Nick Adsero from Woodinville, in my district, rescued three-year old twin girls from their burning apartment building in Everett, Washington. On December 13, 2018, both gentlemen were recognized for their heroics by the American Red Cross Northwest Region with the Fire Rescue Award.

On January 29, 2018, on what had already been a grueling day, Engine 6 of the Everett Fire Department received their fifth call and third fire of the day to the south end of Everett at a 352-unit complex.

By the time first responders arrived, flames had already fanned up to the third floor of the complex.

A babysitter who had briefly left the apartment desperately informed first responders that the two young girls were still inside the building.

When the crew of Engine 6 raced inside, Firefighter Duckworth and Capt. Adsero knew where to go but the apartment was filled with smoke and visibility was zero. As the firefighters felt around the apartment they were able to find both young girls. Both were rushed to Harborview Medical Center for smoke inhalation and both survived.

Capt. Adsero has said he has seen a lot on the job in his 14 years in the fire service, but

a rescue like this was a first for him. What is even more amazing is that this was Firefighter Duckworth's first fire. Most firefighters will go their whole career without such a feat as saving a child but on his first fire, Duckworth helped save two.

I thank Capt. Adsero and Brent Duckworth, and commend their bravery and service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. CARTEAUX

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of William R. Carteaux (Bill), the president and CEO of the Plastics Industry Association and a renowned leader throughout the decades he spent in the U.S. plastics industry.

Mr. Carteaux passed away on December 10, 2018, losing a hard-fought battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the age of 59. Bill was a tireless advocate for the U.S. plastics industry, which employs nearly one million Americans across the country.

In addition to being a champion for one of America's largest and most important manufacturing industries, Bill was also a true son of the Midwest—he was born in Avilla, Indiana, was the son of an electrician, and spent high school working the night shift at a local metalworking plant. Eventually, he attended Purdue University and Indiana Wesleyan before entering the business world and achieving success in the plastics industry.

During his time leading the Plastics Industry Association, Bill made recycling and sustainability core priorities for his organization and his industry. He presided over the foundation of his association's Recycling Committee and Sustainability Advisory Board. He also played a role in the design and execution of several recycling projects which aimed to drive lasting market-driven solutions to the industry's and the environment's most serious waste management challenges.

Before he passed away he led the Washington-area Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and became one of its biggest supporters—raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for research to find a cure.

Madam Speaker, Bill's contributions to the U.S. plastics industry, his tenacity, and his passion made an impact on the lives of thousands of Americans. He will be sorely missed. I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Daniele Fresca; his daughter, Whitney Taveras; her husband, Fernando; their son, Liam; and his daughter, Mallory Carteaux.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. SCOTT M. ANDERSON

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Scott Marvin Anderson, a compassionate man who will forever be remembered for his deep love of God and



his family. Scott's spirit, passion, and drive were second to none, and I am humbled to have known him throughout his life.

Scott was born on April 15, 1975 in Minnesota but grew up traveling the country as a part of his parents' Air Force careers. He graduated from Missouri's Warrensburg High School before continuing to Central Missouri State University and Colorado Christian University. Scott spent much of his adult life pursuing one of his greatest passions, golf, by working at several golf courses in Virginia, in addition to others throughout the United States. Scott devoted time sharing his passion by serving as a teacher, coach, and caddie.

Scott was known for his strong presence in his community: hosting the Eclectic Music Hour for Allegheny Mountain Radio in Bath County, Virginia for some time, as well as being a dedicated disciple of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Woodbridge. He was an active reader of the Bible as well as novels, and truly appreciated God's Word. Beyond his professional and community involvement, Scott will be remembered as a lively and animated man who loved to make other people laugh.

I can attest that Scott touched the lives of everyone he met. He was truly a man of God, and I am fortunate to have called Scott a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, Rich and Ruth; sisters, Brooke and Bria; and grandmother, Sue. Scott's memory will most certainly be cherished by those who knew him. As it says in the book of James, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me as we honor the memory of Mr. Scott Marvin Anderson.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on January 8 and 9, 2019, I missed the following votes due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted: on Roll Call Vote 13, on passage of H.R. 269, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 14, on passage of H.R. 251, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 15, on approving the Journal, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 16, on Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 28, I would have voted Yes; on Roll Call Vote 17, on agreeing to H. Res. 28, I would have voted Aye; and on Roll Call Vote 18, on passage of H.R. 226, I would have voted Aye.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID ARIAN

### HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. Lowenthal. Madam Speaker, on January 2, 2019, David Arian, a widely-respected community, labor, and city government leader, passed away at the age of 72.

I'm proud and honored to join so many others in celebrating his life. We all know about

Dave the union leader—a man carrying on in the footsteps of Harry Bridges. We also know Dave the port commissioner—a man who fought for workers as he was laying out a vision for the future of our ports.

I would like to add Dave the thinker and mentor—who challenged not only me, but many of us, to rethink our positions, learn to defend them, and never give in when we know we are right.

Dave's life, like the man himself, was built on determination and conviction.

Born December 4, 1946, Dave was 18 years old when he took a job at the Wilmington waterfront in 1965. He often joked that at just 130 pounds, union supervisors weren't sure he'd be able to do the physically demanding work of a longshoreman. But like many aspects of his life, Dave proved his skeptics wrong. That first day unloading bananas into boxcars was just the first of many that he would spend working, organizing and leading union workers and causes important to the workers and the San Pedro Bay community.

A proud and fiercely loyal member of the International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 13, Dave would eventually hold many leadership positions over the years, including three terms as local president. In 1991, at the age of 44, he was elected international president of the ILWU. After his service at the top of the union, Dave returned to the docks at the Port of Los Angeles, eventually retiring in 2009. Within a year, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission by then-Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa and reappointed by Mayor Garcetti in 2013.

During his tenure on the Board, the Port of Los Angeles broke all-time cargo volume records while reducing air emissions, two goals on which Dave was particularly focused.

Concern and support for the community, local workers, and residents were woven into everything Dave did. A tireless community activist from the start, Dave and his family helped found the San Pedro Community Action Center in 1966. Over the years, he was also an active supporter of many local service organizations, including the Toberman Neighborhood Center, Harbor Interfaith Services and the San Pedro Boys & Girls Club, the latter where he played as a youth.

Dave founded the Harry Bridges Institute, an organization dedicated to educating younger workers about the labor movement's rich history and community organizing. He had served as the organization's president since its founding in 1993. Dave also captured the spirit of the Institute in his book "The Right to Get in the Fight," which focused on the ILWU and its philosophies and culture that have kept it alive and relevant over the decades.

His involvement in non-labor-related port policy issues began even before his appointment to the Harbor Commission. In 2006, Dave was named to the joint Port of Los Angeles-Port of Long Beach advisory board for the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, which set the stage for the ports to make unprecedented strides in improving air quality in the San Pedro Bay. Dave also served on the governing board of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) Joint Power Authority.

A long-time resident of the Harbor area, Dave grew up on 8th Street in San Pedro, and attended Cabrillo Elementary, Dana Junior

High School, and San Pedro High School. He is survived by his two children and five grandchildren: son Sean and son-in-law Council member Mike Bonin; daughter Justine and son-in-law Ethan Edwards; and grandchildren Jady Rose, Destan, Jacob, Aneka and Keira.

I, like so many others whose lives he touched throughout his amazing life, will miss Dave dearly.

#### HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NGUOI VIET DAILY NEWS

### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nguoi Viet Daily News, the first and largest daily newspaper published in Vietnamese in the United States, and its 40 years of success.

Nguoi Viet Daily News was initially established as a weekly four-page newspaper by Mr. Yen Ngoc Do in 1978. On December 15, 1978, the first issue was dated and printed in Mr. Do's garage. With his own savings, he was able to finance the press run of 2,000 copies and distributed them in San Diego, California. In 1985, the publication officially became "Nguoi Viet Daily News" and was relocated to Santa Ana. In 2004, Nguoi Viet Daily News became the only Vietnamese newspaper to be audited and certified by the Verified Audit Circulation.

Today, Nguoi Viet Daily News also publishes other editions including: Nguoi Viet North-East, Nguoi Viet Houston, Nguoi Viet San Francisco, and Nguoi Viet Utah. Having its headquarter located in Westminster, Orange County and two other locations in San Gabriel and Gardena, Los Angeles, where many Vietnamese Americans reside, Nguoi Viet Daily News produces an average of 13,736 copies per day and has 50–60 readers accessing its online news per day.

After four decades, Nguoi Viet Daily News remains the largest Vietnamese newspaper in the United States as it continues to make significant impacts on the Vietnamese American population overseas. On Nguoi Viet Daily News' 40th anniversary, it is with great pleasure that I commend Nguoi Viet Daily News for their devotion and contributions to the Vietnamese community.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF MR. BASELER

### HON. SUZAN K. DeLBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. DeLBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Theodor Baseler, who will be retiring next month from Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

Mr. Baseler began his career over thirty-four years ago, serving as a marketing professional before becoming the president and CEO of Ste. Michelle in 2001. His vision and leadership for Ste. Michelle, and the industry in general, fueled the evolution of the Washington wine industry.

Ste. Michelle was almost exclusively a Washington-focused company when Mr. Baseler was named president and CEO. Through his work, the company expanded to become the third-largest premium wine company in the U.S., propelling Washington to become the nation's second-largest wine producing state.

Mr. Baseler also attracted some of the world's greatest winemakers to come to Washington to make wine; including Marchese Piero Antinori of Italy, Ernst Loosen of Germany, and Michel Gassier and Philippe Cambie of France.

Mr. Baseler's unwavering commitment to quality resulted in wines lauded by critics, including Wine Spectator magazine's coveted "No. 1 Wine in the World" title for the Columbia Crest 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon in 2009.

For all of his success, Mr. Baseler has received several awards including "Man of the Year" from Wine Enthusiast magazine in 2009, being named one of the "20 Most Admired People in the North American Wine Industry" by Vineyard & Winery Management magazine in 2013, the Seattle-King County First Citizen Award for community leadership in 2015, and the Executive Excellence Award by Seattle Business magazine in 2018.

Mr. Baseler is not only a business leader, but remains a community advocate for higher education. He spearheaded the establishment of the world-class Wine Science Center at Washington State University, which was later named the Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Wine Science Center, and is a member of the Washington University Board of Regents. He has also helped to generate more than \$3 million in scholarship funds to students in need.

I want to congratulate Theodor Baseler on his well-deserved recognition, and I thank him for being a leader in the local community.

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IN RECOGNITION OF WELLSPACE  
HEALTH'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WellSpace Health as they celebrate their 65th Anniversary. As the members of this community gather here today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their exceptional health care services provided to the Sacramento region and its surrounding areas.

Since it first became designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in 2009, WellSpace Health has built a network of clinics providing a broad range of services, including primary care, Well Child Care, dental care, and women's services to the Sacramento region's low-income and underserved families. With its Integrated Behavioral Health model, WellSpace Health is a true champion for parity, blending physical health services with addiction and mental health treatment. Its high level of service integration has allowed WellSpace Health to become one of very few FQHC's that have accreditation with The Joint Commission, the gold standard of quality accreditation nationwide.

WellSpace Health's commitment to providing comprehensive and integrated care is unparalleled in the Sacramento region. Through collaboration with non-profit organiza-

tions and community partnerships, WellSpace Health ensures that its services reflect the true diversity and needs of the communities they serve. With Immediate Care services operating 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, WellSpace Health continues to offer expanded access to care while, preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.

Madam Speaker, as staff members of WellSpace Health celebrate their momentous years of service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication to excellence in health care in the Sacramento region and beyond.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2019*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed a floor vote on H.R. 264, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2019, on January 9, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted yes. I was proud to support an appropriations package that included similar provisions and strongly support the provision in H.R. 264 to ensure that federal workers are fully compensated once the partial government shutdown is over. I will continue to call for the passage of bipartisan spending bills like this one to reopen the government.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S111–S147*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 73–111, and S. Res. 14–16. **Pages S141–43**

#### Measures Passed:

**Government Employee Fair Treatment Act:** Senate passed S. 24, to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations. **Pages S133–34**

**Commending the Clemson University Tigers Football Team:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 15, commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship. **Page S146**

**Relative to the Death of Former Senator John Chester Culver:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 16, relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa. **Page S146**

#### Measures Considered:

**Strengthening America’s Security In The Middle East Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people. **Pages S115–35**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 2), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S128**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, January 14, 2019. **Page S128**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, January 11, 2019. **Page S146**

#### Appointments:

**United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control for the 116th Congress: Senators Cornyn (Chairman), Grassley, Risch, and Perdue. **Page S146**

**Syria Study Group:** The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of section 1501 of Public Law 115–254, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, appointed the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group: Chris Tuttle, of Virginia. **Page S146**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S141**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S141**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Pages S111, S141**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S141, S146**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S141**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page S143**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S143–44**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S139–41**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S146**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S146**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) **Page S128**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator John Chester Culver, in accordance with S. Res. 16, at 5:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S146.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM SYRIA

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee received a closed briefing on President Trump's recent decision

to withdraw United States forces from Syria from John C. Rood, Under Secretary for Policy, and Lieutenant General Richard D. Clarke, USA, Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy, J5, and Major General Michael S. Groen, USMC, Director of Intelligence, J2, both of the Joint Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 64 public bills, H.R. 424–487, and 3 resolutions; H.J. Res. 25, and H. Res. 35 and 36; were introduced.

Pages H461–63

**Additional Cosponsors:** Page H465

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Swalwell (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H363

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:18 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H371

**Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019:** The House passed H.R. 267, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 244 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 23. Page H438

Rejected the Diaz-Balart motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 193 yeas to 228 nays, Roll No. 22. Pages H437–38

H. Res. 28, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 264), (H.R. 265), (H.R. 266), and (H.R. 267) was agreed to yesterday, January 9th.

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019:** The House passed H.R. 265, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 243 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 25. Pages H439–40

Rejected the Aderholt motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with in-

structions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 197 yeas to 229 nays, Roll No. 24. Page H439

H. Res. 28, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 264), (H.R. 265), (H.R. 266), and (H.R. 267) was agreed to yesterday, January 9th.

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act:** H.R. 115, to require the Department of State to establish a policy regarding the use of location-tracking consumer devices by employees at diplomatic and consular facilities; Pages H429–30

**United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act:** H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and Pages H430–32

**Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act:** H.R. 192, to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats. Pages H432–34

**Joint Economic Committee—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY). Page H440

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act:** H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally. Pages H434–37

**Senate Referral:** S. 24 was held at the desk.

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H454.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H437–38, H438, H439, and H439–40. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

### *Committee Meetings*

No hearings were held.

### *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Friday, January 11

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, January 11

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1, Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Consideration of H.R. 266—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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# Congressional Record

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