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No. 152

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK MEADOWS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

VICTORY OR DEATH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is a battle brewing back home in Texas. According to news reports, it seems that some in our education system have taken issue with one of the most treasured and significant historical letters in Texas history, Lieutenant Colonel William Barrett Travis and his passionate plea in his letter "to all the people of Texas and all Americans in the world."

To add insult to injury, they have also called into question the heroic nature of Travis and the 187 volunteers who sacrificed their lives at the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

A committee evaluating the State's history curriculum standards has proposed that we eliminate the study of Travis' historical "Victory or Death" letter. They have also recommended that we remove the word "heroic" from the curriculum because it is a value-charged word, a hero and the heroes of the Alamo.

Well, to quote Travis, I have a value-charged word or two to say about that: "Victory or death," Mr. Speaker. These are the most iconic words in Texas history. That is our battle cry and has been our battle cry since 1836. It is who we are.

Texas' defiant, independent nature was born from those words of that letter written from behind the walls of a besieged Alamo mission in Bexar, Texas. The words on that paper are as much a part of who we are as the blood that runs through our veins.

We shall "never surrender or retreat," to quote Travis. We cannot allow political correctness to rewrite any history or, in this case, edit history.

Maybe they didn't take Texas history from Mrs. Wilson, like I did. However, it seems now that this committee is walking back that original suggestion.

Whatever the case, the Travis letter is every bit the core and soul of freedom as the words of Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. He says: "I have answered that demand with a cannon shot, and the flag still waves proudly over the north wall. I shall never surrender or retreat."

Mr. Speaker, history is the greatest teacher we have. Book burners who want to erase from textbooks "the establishment of the Republic of Texas brought civil, political, and religious freedom to Texas" are just trying to ignore history.

Those elites who want to rip the Travis letter from our Texas history books dishonor the sacrifice of 187 freedom fighters at the Alamo, of all races, from most of the States and several foreign countries, including Mexico. These individuals gave their last full measure of devotion to liberty.

Webster's dictionary may not define "hero" with the names of those who died March 6, 1836, at the Alamo, but it should.

Travis isn't just my favorite hero. He has intertwined himself throughout my life. He is the inspiration of why I am a lawyer. He was a lawyer.

My first grandson is named Barrett Houston. And inscribed along the bottom of my stationery are the words, "I shall never surrender or retreat."

Travis' letter hung on my wall of the courtroom in Texas and still hangs in my office today in D.C.

Because of men like William Barrett Travis and the Alamo defenders, we are called the great State of Texas. Travis' legacy embodies the passion and loyalty that makes Texans stand out in the world. To consider anything to the contrary is a disgrace.

We must preserve one of our greatest treasures in Texas history so that future generations can learn the meaning of "what is due to his own honor and that of his country." God and Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Travis letter.

COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO

Bejar, Feby. 24th. 1836

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World—Fellow Citizens & compatriots—

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American

☐ 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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character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—
Victory or Death.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS.

Lt. Col. comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side—When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn—We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis.

Mr. POE of Texas. And that is just the way it is.

IDEA PARITY FOR OUTLYING AREAS ACT

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the IDEA Parity for Outlying Areas Act, which would amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to better support students with disabilities in our smaller U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

During my final congressional address to my constituents in Guam, I pledged to sponsor this important legislation for our youngsters and students with disabilities, as well as their families.

I want to give special recognition to Ms. Nadia Pablo, who interned in my office this past summer, for her work in developing this legislation with my staff. Ms. Pablo currently attends Virginia Commonwealth University, where she is studying to become an occupational therapist and pursue a rewarding career working with people with disabilities.

The IDEA Parity for Outlying Areas Act would ensure that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, classified as outlying areas by the U.S. Department of Education, receive their fair share of Federal funding to serve students with disabilities and their families.

The intent of Congress, outlined in current Federal law, is that the U.S. Department of Education set aside a fixed percentage of available Federal funding each year for the four outlying U.S. territories and the three Freely Associated States in the Pacific.

However, the U.S. Department of Education frequently allocates far less than the 1 percent reserved for the outlying areas under current law. So, to fix this, my bill would require the U.S. Department of Education to reserve the full 1 percent of available IDEA funding each year for the outlying areas, as Congress always intended.

This will ensure that special education in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands gets full Federal funding.

It will also ensure that the U.S. Department of Education provides adequate support for special education in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau consistent with the Compacts of Free Association between the U.S. and those allied countries.

There are some 7,177 students with disabilities in the outlying U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States, all of whom would benefit under this bill. According to the most recent figures, Guam recorded more than 2,020 students with disabilities, including 171 preschoolers with disabilities.

Our territorial Departments of Education are chronically underfunded, and many developmental and learning disabilities simply go undiagnosed. So we desperately need Federal support under the IDEA.

Instantly, and importantly, my bill would also make Guam and the other outlying U.S. territories eligible to receive IDEA funding for preschoolers, children ages 3 to 5, with disabilities. Under current law, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are not eligible to receive U.S. Department of Education funding for preschoolers with disabilities.

Finally, my bill removes a number of antiquated and unnecessary restrictions in current law to allow the U.S. Department of Education to exercise the same flexibility in awarding IDEA funding to the territories as the Department may do so under other programs.

As a daughter of a schoolteacher, with many members in my family as part of education, and someone involved in special education on Guam over many, many years, the education of our island's youngsters with disabilities is very close to my heart. Students with disabilities in the territories deserve nothing less than the full support of their Federal Government, and that is exactly what my bill would provide.

While I will be leaving Congress at the end of this year, I am confident that my colleagues from the other territories will take on my IDEA Parity for Outlying Areas Act in the next Congress, and I look forward to supporting them in that important work in any way that I can.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

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 celebrate September being National Recovery Month. Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, I encourage everyone to take time this month to reach out to those they know who are suffering or have suffered from mental and substance abuse disorders.

Currently, 115 people die every day from an opioid overdose. Clearly, that is way too many and, sadly, only one example of numerous types of mental and substance abuse disorders in the United States.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, there are resources available, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, SAMHSA's National Helpline, and more. SAMHSA's website, www.samhsa.gov, has these phone numbers, treatment center locations, grant applications for local governments, and general health information.

With hard work, smart policy decisions, and a dedicated American public, we can turn these numbers around.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1918 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 100th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic, one of the most deadly pandemics in human history called the Spanish flu.

The illness claimed 675,000 lives. No part of the United States was immune to the Spanish flu, and it claimed victims of all ages, urban and rural citizens alike.

Sadly, we still do not know exactly what caused the 1918 epidemic, but, even today, deadly strains of the flu are still possible.

It is important that we remember the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic to remind ourselves how important it is to strongly invest in research and development for lifesaving medications that may prevent a future outbreak, like the one in 1918.

As we enter into the new flu season, I encourage everyone to see your doctor, see your pharmacist, and get your flu vaccine.

UNSPEAKABLE SUFFERING OF THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, once again, to speak about the unspeakable suffering of the Rohingya people.

Two recent developments have accentuated the vital need for the House to speak formally and clearly about this human disaster.

First, last month, a factfinding mission of the United Nations spelled out what is undeniable, that Burma's Rohingya Muslim population has been subjected to "systemic oppression" culminating in so-called clearance operations that "targeted and terrorized the entire Rohingya population."

The U.N. report called for Burma's military leaders to be investigated and prosecuted on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes related to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya.

Let me quote directly from the U.N. report on the violence and brutally inflicted on the Rohingya by operations

conducted by the Burmese military last year:

“The ‘clearance operations’ constituted a human rights catastrophe. Thousands of Rohingya were killed or injured. Mass killings were perpetrated. . . . Villagers were gathered together, before men and boys were separated and killed. . . . Women and girls were taken to nearby houses, gang raped, then killed or severely injured. Bodies were transported in military vehicles, burned and disposed of in mass graves.”

□ 1215

“Villagers were killed by soldiers, and sometimes Rakhine men, using large bladed weapons. Others were killed in arson attacks, burned to death in their own houses. In some cases, people were forced into burning houses or locked into buildings set on fire. Rape and other forms of sexual violence were perpetrated on a massive scale.”

Secondly, reporters who have attempted to expose these atrocities in Burma have been targeted for harassment and arrest. Just last week, two reporters from Reuters were sentenced to 7 years in prison by a Burmese court for violating state-secret laws in what has been widely reported as a sham process.

During their court proceedings, a police official testified he had been ordered to entrap these journalists. This is nothing less than an effort to suppress the truth.

The leader of Burma’s civilian government, Aung San Suu Kyi, must pursue the immediate and unconditional release of these courageous reporters. Anything less represents a betrayal of justice and democracy.

Earlier this year, Burma’s national security advisor made a series of comments designed to deny or downplay any violence and atrocities against the Rohingya, saying the vast majority remain in Burma, and “if it was genocide, they would all be driven out.”

He went on to declare that the Burmese Government “would like to have clear evidence” of ethnic cleansing and genocide. The evidence, of course, is overwhelming, as presented in the current and previous U.N. reports.

The fact is that Suu Kyi and the civilian government too often excuse or deny genocide. The U.N. report stated that she failed to use her position or moral authority to protect the Rohingya, and that civilian authorities have, instead, “spread false narratives” about the atrocities.

Some have preached patience with Suu Kyi, noting that she does not have direct authority over Burma’s military. They say that there is a danger the military may dismantle the civilian government if she raises concerns about their brutal and murderous repression of the Rohingya.

I met personally with Suu Kyi a few years ago as part of a delegation led by NANCY PELOSI. Her story of not only

perseverance but triumph over oppression was an inspiration to all of us.

But none of this justifies silence in the face of genocide.

Over three-quarters of a million Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes to seek refuge in neighboring Bangladesh. Many thousands have been killed, raped, and beaten as described earlier. Dozens of villages have been burned and bulldozed into oblivion.

The civilian government has the power to free the two jailed reporters who have exposed particular cases of violence against the Rohingya.

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First, last month, a fact-finding mission of the United Nations spelled out what is undeniable—that Burma’s Rohingya Muslim population has been subjected to “systemic oppression” culminating in so-called clearance operations that “targeted and terrorized the entire Rohingya population.”

The UN report called for Burma’s (also known as Myanmar) military leaders to be investigated and prosecuted on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes related to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya.

Let me quote directly from the UN report on the violence and brutality inflicted on the Rohingya by operations conducted by the Burmese military last year:

The “clearance operation” constituted a human rights catastrophe. Thousands of Rohingya were killed or injured. Mass killings were perpetrated. . . . villagers were gathered together, before men and boys were separated and killed. . . . women and girls were taken to nearby houses, gang raped, then killed or severely injured. Bodies were transported in military vehicles, burned and disposed of in mass graves.

Villagers were killed by soldiers, and sometimes Rakhine men, using large bladed weapons. Others were killed in arson attacks, burned to death in their own houses. In some cases, people were forced into burning houses, or locked into buildings set on fire. Rape and other forms of sexual violence were perpetrated on a massive scale.

Second, reporters who have attempted to expose these atrocities in Burma have been targeted for harassment and arrest. Just last week, two reporters from Reuters were sentenced to seven years in prison by a Burmese court for violating state secrets laws in what has been widely reported as a sham process.

During their court proceeding, a police official testified he had been ordered to entrap these journalists.

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The civilian government has the power to free the two jailed reporters who have exposed particular cases of violence against the Rohingya. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo should not be imprisoned for shining a light on the truth.

Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY is leading efforts to urge Secretary of State Pompeo to demand their immediate release in direct discussions with Suu Kyi, saying “this case is only the latest example of the ongoing erosion of press freedom in Burma, especially directed at those covering military abuses.”

Representatives JOAQUIN CASTRO and ANN WAGNER have sent a letter directly to Suu Kyi urging the journalists’ release after being sentenced for, in their words, “their commitment to a central role of a free press—speaking truth to power.”

Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has said “the conviction of two journalists for doing their job is another terrible stain on the Burmese government.”

Last week, I introduced H. Res. 1057, calling on Suu Kyi to move to immediately and unconditionally free the two reporters. It builds on an earlier resolution that I joined with Senator DURBIN and the late Senator McCain that called for both military and civilian authorities to end the violent repression of the Rohingya.

I urged that we in the House carry out our solemn duty and come together now and speak with one voice. We should pass a resolution right now saying that jailing reporters for exposing the truth is a grave injustice, especially when that truth is the crime of genocide.

We cannot wait to respond to this injustice when it is convenient or safe. Those whose voices have been suppressed through violence and cruelty need us to speak for them now. We must not fail them.

RECOGNIZING CROYDON FIRE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Croydon Fire Company in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which recently celebrated its 100th year of service in our community.

Recently, the fire company celebrated with a parade and an open house, which I had the honor to participate with them in, allowing Croydon residents to express their gratitude and well wishes to the brave men and women who sacrifice so much for our community.

I would like to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to show our community's appreciation for volunteer fire companies, who often today are feeling the squeeze of declining membership and volunteerism.

In Croydon, under the strong leadership of Chief Tom Tryon, the fire company continues to see success. However, there is still work to be done in order to sustain the viability of volunteer fire companies, and we stand by their side in this mission.

I applaud the work of the Croydon volunteer fire company and their tireless work to protect our families and our community. We wish them all the best as they enter their second century serving lower Bucks County and our entire community.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. As policymakers and citizens, it is a time for us to reflect on loved ones lost and to work together in advancing bipartisan solutions to eradicate this disease. I am proud of my neighbors in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are doing their part to advocate for a cure to ovarian cancer.

Turn the Towns Teal, a national campaign that spreads awareness of ovarian cancer through the placement of teal ribbons in public locations, recently arrived in Doylestown borough. This event brought together thoughtful citizens, in partnership with the Doylestown Rotary Club, dispensing nearly 400 ribbons throughout the area.

It takes several leaders to make this impactful event possible. I would like to thank coordinator Joan Doyle for her activism, along with the Doylestown borough mayor, Ron Strouse, and the entire Doylestown borough council for their support in the fight against ovarian cancer. I want to commend all volunteers who participated in Doylestown's Turn the Towns Teal event in its 10th year of existence. We look forward to collaborating with them to promote this noble cause throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING SHARED SUPPORT, INC.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that gives individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities the ability to contribute to society in a variety of meaningful and fulfilling ways.

Shared Support, Inc., in Warminster is a unique program that gives participants work experiences in multiple settings. One of Shared Support, Inc.'s impressive stories involves Jimmy Garcia, who assists the residents of the Neshaminy Manor nursing home.

Recently, during a painting activity session, Jimmy was extremely helpful in making sure the residents had the supplies they needed to accomplish their tasks. He also took a trip with Neshaminy Manor to the Middletown Grange Fair, assisting Warwick-based Ross Mill Farm with the hard work of cleaning the animal pens.

I applaud Jimmy for his hard work and for being an outstanding citizen in our community. I would also like to thank Shared Support cofounder and CEO Christine Martin, direct care professional Mike Hegarty, and Neshaminy Manor's activities aid Margaret Matthews for all of their amazing work with an amazing organization. Our community really thanks them for all the work they do.

RECOGNIZING FAIRVIEW MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairview Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for hosting its third annual Police Appreciation Day last Friday. It was my privilege to attend this inspiring and exciting event in honor of the entire Winston-Salem police force and their families.

Fairview Moravian Church did an incredible job of bringing together the community to celebrate the commitment and sacrifices that law enforcement officers and their families make to protect and serve the community. Numerous local businesses also participated in the event by providing a wonderful meal and various door prizes.

I commend Police Chief Catrina Thompson, along with her leadership team, for the leadership they provide the police force, and I commend and thank, with all my heart, the Winston-Salem police force and all of the men and women who make daily sacrifices to keep the community safe. They are truly a dedicated group of people.

The Fifth District is fortunate to have the congregation of Fairview Moravian Church devote its time and effort to carry out this tradition to show the men and women of the police force the support they deserve every day.

May God continue to bless everyone involved.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

The Members of this House return to address issues of concern to the Nation. Give them the gifts of discernment and patience in the work that faces them.

Even so, a major storm approaches the Carolinas, promising disruptions to life and safety in the coastal States, as well as impacting travel for many Members.

May this be a time, with Your grace, for Americans to demonstrate good will toward their neighbors, and patience as well, with the difficult responsibilities of those in government when natural disaster is imminent. We thank You for the courage of those charged with responding to the impact of the storm in the coming days, and ask that all would be safe and secure.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS 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.

PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION SUBSIDIZES MURDER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and National Security Advisor John Bolton made the courageous decision to close the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, office in Washington.

The PLO has taken no steps to advance the peace negotiations with Israel. Instead, they have focused their efforts on leveraging the International

Criminal Court, which directly disrupts the peace process.

Unfortunately, the PLO's efforts to subvert the International Criminal Court were advanced when former President Barack Obama refused to stand up for Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

While the PLO condemns Israel, it is, shamefully, paying payments to families of suicide bombers and terrorists as rewards for mass murder. Hakim Abard, who murdered five members of an Israeli family, receives \$14,000 a year from the PLO. The family of the murderer of American Taylor Force received benefits as a reward for that murder.

The administration had provided the PLO the opportunity to remain when their waiver lapsed, but, unfortunately, the PLO continues to sponsor violence against innocent American and Israeli citizens. President Trump made the right decision.

Our prayers for the people threatened by Hurricane Florence, with our appreciation for the first responders who are protecting American families in the tradition of 9/11.

ETHICS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump attempted to drain the swamp, but his administration has only accelerated the revolving door between the executive branch and industry lobbyists.

Last week, I introduced a bill to restore the rules surrounding executive appointee lobbying to the higher standards of the previous administration.

The Ethics in Public Service Act would make commonsense changes to make government more transparent and accountable. For example, it would close loopholes in the Trump administration's ethics pledge allowing former appointees to communicate with the agency where they worked and permitting former lobbyists to join an executive agency that they lobbied within the previous 2 years.

Government officials should not be shamelessly trading on their service for personal gain or to help out the special interests that previously employed them.

Our democracy will function more effectively, and the American people will be better served, by a stronger separation between public service and corporate lobbying. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation to clean up the system in Washington.

RECOGNIZING LAKE TRAVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BEE CAVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department that are in the great 25th District of Texas.

As we all know, yesterday marked 17 years since our country was attacked on September 11, 2001. We lost thousands of lives when terrorists wreaked havoc on the United States.

While we can never forget the anger and heartbreak we all felt, we must also never forget the heroic actions by our first responders. While people were running down the stairs to escape, men and women were running up 110 flights of stairs toward danger to save lives.

That day, we lost 343 New York firefighters, 37 Port Authority officers, and 23 New York P.D. officers.

While we can never truly thank them for their sacrifice, we can honor them for their courage and valor.

Yesterday, the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department put on full gear and climbed 110 flights of stairs to commemorate those who never made it out while climbing those steps.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders are vital to the safety of Americans, and we must never forget to thank them for all they do. We must continue to pray for all those affected, and thank those who selflessly gave their lives for our Nation.

God bless our first responders, and God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6198) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6198

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 "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the title heading, by striking "DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE" and inserting "COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE";

(2) by striking section 1901 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 1900. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

"(3) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office established under section 1901(a).

"(4) WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—The term 'weapon of mass destruction' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

"Subtitle A—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office

"SEC. 1901. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, who shall be appointed by the President.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall serve as the Secretary's principal advisor on—

"(1) weapons of mass destruction matters and strategies; and

"(2) coordinating efforts to counter weapons of mass destruction.

"(d) DETAILS.—The Secretary may request that the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the directors of other Federal agencies, including elements of the intelligence community, provide for the reimbursable detail of personnel with relevant expertise to the Office.;"

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle B—Mission of the Office

"SEC. 1921. MISSION OF THE OFFICE.

"The Office shall be responsible for coordinating with other Federal efforts and developing departmental strategy and policy to plan for, detect, and protect against the importation, possession, storage, transportation, development, or use of unauthorized chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, devices, or agents in the United States and to protect against an attack using such materials, devices, or agents against the people, territory, or interests of the United States.

“SEC. 1922. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DEPARTMENT ENTITIES AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Assistant Secretary under this title shall neither affect nor diminish the authority or the responsibility of any officer of the Department or of any officer of any other department or agency of the United States with respect to the command, control, or direction of the functions, personnel, funds, assets, and liabilities of any entity within the Department or any Federal department or agency.

“(b) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Nothing in this title or any other provision of law may be construed to affect or reduce the responsibilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Administrator of the Agency, including the diversion of any asset, function, or mission of the Agency or the Administrator of the Agency.”;

(4) by striking section 1905;

(5) by redesignating sections 1902, 1903, 1904, 1906, and 1907 as sections 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927, respectively, and transferring such sections to appear after section 1922, as added by paragraph (3);

(6) in section 1923, as so redesignated—

(A) in the section heading by striking “MISSION OF OFFICE” and inserting “RESPONSIBILITIES”; and

(B) in subsection (a)(11), by striking “Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “Office”;

(7) in section 1925, as so redesignated, in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking “section 1902” and inserting “section 1923”;

(8) in section 1926, as so redesignated—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

(ii) by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 1902(a)” and inserting “section 1923”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 1902(a)” and inserting “section 1923”;

(9) in section 1927, as so redesignated—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “section 1902” and inserting “section 1923”; and

(10) by inserting after section 1927, as so redesignated, the following new section:

“SEC. 1928. SECURING THE CITIES PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, shall establish the ‘Securing the Cities’ (‘STC’) program to enhance the ability of the United States to detect and prevent terrorist attacks and other high consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials that pose a high risk to homeland security in high-risk urban areas. Through the STC program the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in designing and implementing, or enhancing existing, architectures for coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction of nuclear or other radiological materials that are out of regulatory control;

“(2) support the development of a region-wide operating capability to detect and report on nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control;

“(3) provide resources to enhance detection, analysis, communication, and coordination to better integrate into Federal operations State, local, Tribal, and territorial assets;

“(4) facilitate alarm adjudication and provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance on concepts of operations, training, exercises, and alarm response protocols;

“(5) communicate with, and promote sharing of information about the presence or detection of nuclear or other radiological materials among appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, in a manner that ensures transparency with the jurisdictions served by such program;

“(6) provide augmenting resources, as appropriate, to enable State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to sustain and refresh their capabilities developed under the STC program; and

“(7) provide any other assistance the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) DESIGNATION OF JURISDICTIONS.—In carrying out the STC program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate jurisdictions from among high-risk urban areas under section 2003, and other cities and regions, as appropriate.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate not later than three days before the designation of a new jurisdiction in accordance with subsection (b) or any other change to participating jurisdictions.”.

(b) REFERENCES AND CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to—

(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office shall be deemed to be a reference to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; and

(B) the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Sections 1923 through 1927 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as so redesignated by subsection (a), shall be construed to cover the chemical and biological responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

(3) AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements is transferred to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, and such authority shall be construed to include grants for all purposes of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by this Act.

(c) CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.—

(1) REPEAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by striking section 516.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle C—Chief Medical Officer

“SEC. 1931. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Office a Chief Medical Officer, who shall be appointed by the President. The Chief Medical Officer shall report to the Assistant Secretary.

“(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual appointed as Chief Medical Officer shall be a licensed physician possessing a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of medicine and public health.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Medical Officer shall have the responsibility within the Department for medical issues related to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including—

“(1) serving as the principal advisor on medical and public health issues to the Secretary, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Assistant Secretary, and other Department officials;

“(2) providing operational medical support to all components of the Department;

“(3) as appropriate, providing medical liaisons to the components of the Department, on a reimbursable basis, to provide subject matter expertise on operational medical issues;

“(4) coordinating with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, the medical community, and others within and outside the Department, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the Department of Health and Human Services, with respect to medical and public health matters; and

“(5) performing such other duties relating to such responsibilities as the Secretary may require.”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the item relating to section 516.

(d) WORKFORCE HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 710. WORKFORCE HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Management shall be responsible for workforce-focused health and medical activities of the Department. The Under Secretary for Management may further delegate these responsibilities, as appropriate.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer, shall—

“(1) provide oversight and coordinate the medical and health activities of the Department for the human and animal personnel of the Department;

“(2) establish medical, health, veterinary, and occupational health exposure policy, guidance, strategies, and initiatives for the human and animal personnel of the Department;

“(3) as deemed appropriate by the Under Secretary, provide medical liaisons to the components of the Department, on a reimbursable basis, to provide subject matter expertise on occupational medical and public health issues;

“(4) serve as the primary representative for the Department on agreements regarding the detail of Commissioned Corps officers of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department, except that components and offices of the Department shall retain authority for funding, determination of specific duties, and supervision of such detailed Commissioned Corps officers; and

“(5) perform such other duties relating to such responsibilities as the Secretary may require.”.

(e) TRANSFERS; ABOLISHMENT.—

(1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to—

(A) the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of—

(i) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except for the functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of such office necessary to perform the functions specified in section 710 of the Homeland

Security Act of 2002 (relating to workforce health and medical support), as added by this Act; and

(B) the Directorate of Management of the Department of Homeland Security all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, that are necessary to perform the functions of such section 710.

(2) **ABOLISHMENT.**—Upon completion of all transfers pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security are abolished; and

(B) the positions of Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection are abolished.

(f) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **OTHER OFFICERS.**—Paragraph (4) of section 103(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(d)) is amended by striking “A Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection” and inserting “An Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office”.

(2) **NATIONAL BIOSURVEILLANCE INTEGRATION CENTER.**—Section 316(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195b(a)) is amended by striking “Secretary shall” and inserting “Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, shall”.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**—Section 317(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195c(f)) is amended by striking “the Chief Medical Officer,” and inserting “the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,”.

(4) **FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.**—Section 505(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 315(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4); and

(C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking “through (4)” and inserting “through (3)”.

(5) **COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.**—Section 528(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321q(a)) is amended by striking “Health Affairs,” and inserting “the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,”.

(g) **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and once every year thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a briefing and report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101) on—

(1) the organization and management of the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities, and the location of each activity under the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office;

(2) a comprehensive inventory of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities, including research and development activities, of the Department of Homeland Security, highlighting areas of collaboration between components, coordination with other agencies, and the effectiveness and accomplishments of consolidated chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities;

(3) information relating to how the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office will enhance the development of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear priorities and capabilities across the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) a discussion of any resulting cost savings and efficiencies gained through activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(5) information on how the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office is coordinating with the Under Secretary of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security on research and development activities; and

(6) recommendations for any necessary statutory changes, or, if no statutory changes are necessary, an explanation of why no statutory or organizational changes are necessary.

(h) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 709 the following:

“Sec. 710. Workforce health and medical support.”;

and

(2) by striking the item relating to title XIX (including items relating to section 1901 through section 1907) and inserting the following:

“TITLE XIX—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

“Sec. 1900. Definitions.

“Subtitle A—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office

“Sec. 1901. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

“Subtitle B—Mission of the Office

“Sec. 1921. Mission of the Office.

“Sec. 1922. Relationship to other department entities and Federal agencies.

“Sec. 1923. Responsibilities.

“Sec. 1924. Hiring authority.

“Sec. 1925. Testing authority.

“Sec. 1926. Contracting and grant making authorities.

“Sec. 1927. Joint annual interagency review of global nuclear detection architecture.

“Sec. 1928. Securing the Cities program.

“Subtitle C—Chief Medical Officer

“Sec. 1931. Chief Medical Officer.”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security was created in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks and the threats to the homeland posed by al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

As we pause this week to honor those we lost and the heroic first responders who answered the call that day, we recognize that the scope of the threat we face has changed dramatically since that time and has become much more diverse and diffuse.

We know that the terrorist groups have long strived to employ chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials in their attacks. There have been documented reports of ISIS using mustard gas in Syria, as well as sarin and chlorine gas used by the Syrian Government.

A plot to release hydrogen sulfide via an improvised chemical dispersion device was uncovered by the Australian Federal Police. A laptop, reportedly retrieved from an ISIS hideout in Syria in 2014, contained plans for bubonic plague and a document that discussed the advantages of using biological weapons.

The rapid evolution of new biological techniques, such as CRISPR CAS9, posed potential threats as the new techniques can be used for good or evil.

As the world of threats continues to evolve and becomes more complex, it is incumbent upon the Department of Homeland Security to continuously assess whether or not it is optimally organized to best confront the variety of threats it is expected to counter.

Last year, former Acting Secretary Elaine Duke determined that the Department was, in fact, not organized to best address these threats. As a result, on October 6, she notified the committee of her intent to use her 872 reorganization authority to establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, or CWMD, Office, headed by an Assistant Secretary for CWMD. This reorganization took effect last December.

However, the Secretary realized that the use of her 872 authority would only take her so far, and legislative changes are necessary to fully integrate the CWMD Office.

The bill we are considering today will take the Department the rest of the way in developing an integrated, effective organization to counter CBRN threats. The bill seeks to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the structure, authority, and tools it needs to counter the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

It consolidates the Office of Health Affairs and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office into a new Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to ensure coordination and unity of effort at the Department of Homeland Security on these threats.

Current DHS Secretary Nielsen has indicated that this bill is one of her top legislative priorities, noting that it will: “Provide DHS crucial, legal authorities to protect the homeland . . . and enable DHS to more quickly obtain, test, and deploy effective counter-WMD tactics and technologies.”

Mr. Speaker, I include in the **RECORD** a letter from Secretary Nielsen in support of this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, August 30, 2018.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Thank you for your leadership addressing threats to the homeland and strengthening the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) ability to carry out its mission. I would like to highlight the work being done in Congress to close identified security gaps and better guard against the persistent and evolving threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

As we saw with the Russian chemical weapon incidents in the United Kingdom, nation-states are using these capabilities for lethal attacks against civilians. At the same time, terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are developing and deploying their own WMD capabilities to use on the battlefield and in external operations in the West. Unfortunately, the U.S. Government—including the Department of Homeland Security—lacks the central focal point and authorities needed to decisively combat these dangers and adequately defend the U.S. homeland.

That is why I am seeking your assistance in authorizing the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office. This is one of my top legislative priorities for DHS, in addition to authorizing DHS to counter the threat posed by the nefarious use of unmanned aircraft systems and authorization of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as well as DHS itself. The CWMD legislation sponsored by Representative Donovan (R-NY) and cosponsored by Chairman McCaul (R-TX), H.R. 6198, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018, represents a critical step towards enabling the Department to mitigate WMD threats.

I strongly support this bill's movement under suspension of the rules at the earliest possible opportunity. Once enacted, the legislation will permanently establish the CWMD Office as the nucleus of DHS efforts to guard the homeland against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, and it will provide DHS crucial legal authorities to protect the homeland. DHS currently has broad authorities related to the radiological and nuclear detection mission space, but the lack of similar authorities for chemical and biological missions constrains our ability to address threats comprehensively. This legislation would address that disparity and will enable DHS to more quickly obtain, test, and deploy effective counter-WMD tactics and technologies.

Similar bill language has been reported out of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee as part of the DHS Authorization bill, H.R. 2825, so I am hopeful that near-term House passage will bring this legislation closer to reaching the President's desk. Thank you again for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued support of the men and women at DHS, who are committed to protecting this Nation.

Best Regards,
KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN,
Secretary.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill we are considering today is similar in intent to the Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act, which passed the House by voice last Congress. Similar legislation was approved by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs earlier this year, and I am hopeful we will work together to swiftly get this

important bill to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WALDEN of the Energy and Commerce Committee for working with me to bring this bill to the floor. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 6198, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 6198 so that it may proceed to the House floor for consideration. This is done with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on the bill and expects your support when such a request is made.

Please include a copy of this letter outlining our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 6198 in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2018.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6198, the "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego further consideration of the bill.

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

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

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6198, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018. This bill authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to reorganize itself in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to a biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear attack.

Yesterday, we came together to mark the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. As a proud New Jerseyan, I carry those images of that day in the work that I do in Congress and on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Today, in a small way, we are here to honor the loss and sacrifice Americans felt that day by positioning DHS to better address emerging terrorist threats. Plans to reorganize DHS' biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear programs first surfaced in the Obama administration.

In December 2017, then-Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke exercised her statutory authority to reorganize elements within the Department to establish a new Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. The CWMD Office merged the functions of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, DNDO; the majority of the Office of Health Affairs, OHA; parts of Science and Technology Directorate, S&T; parts of DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, SPP; and DHS Office of Operations Coordination, OPS.

Though many of us in Congress were disappointed that DHS acted without explicit congressional authorization to make this major operational change, the reorganization appears to have been effective in harmonizing efforts within DHS.

I am pleased that the legislation before you today contains language authored to ensure that CWMD Office leverages research and development resources and capabilities by coordinating with the Science and Technology Directorate.

H.R. 6198 also contains language, already passed by the House, to authorize the Securing the Cities program. Securing the Cities is an important tool to protecting New York City and other major metropolitan areas.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act to help protect our homeland from the world's most dangerous weapons.

Yesterday, we observed the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. On that day in 2001, 19 Islamist terrorists turned airplanes into cruise missiles and crashed them into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Had it not been for the heroic passengers on United Airlines flight 93, this very building, the Capitol, could have been destroyed.

Almost 3,000 innocent people were killed and thousands more injured. It was the most devastating attack on our homeland in our Nation's history, targeting our military, economic, and political symbols of power.

While attending a memorial service at the Pentagon yesterday, many of us remembered the images from 9/11 and they returned to me: the towers falling, the Pentagon on fire, and our brave first responders running into

harm's way to save their fellow citizens.

I also remembered that in the aftermath of the attack, we pledged to never forget: never forget the pain we felt, never forget the victims, and never forget that our enemies will search for new ways to attack our country.

Today, the most serious threats to our national security come from biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. Over the last few decades, North Korea has been developing nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles to deliver them.

The terror-sponsoring regime in Iran has also been building a nuclear program, and Bashar al-Assad's evil dictatorship in Syria has used chemical weapons to kill innocent civilians, including women and children.

Russia recently used a chemical weapon in an assassination attempt in Great Britain, and reports of terror groups like al-Qaida have been in pursuit of weapons of mass destruction for many, many years.

These weapons are real and lethal. A WMD attack in the United States could kill millions of people and bring economic mayhem. We cannot allow these weapons to be used on our soil.

To prevent this from happening, we must give the Department of Homeland Security the authority it needs to counter the threat. This legislation will consolidate the Office of Health Affairs and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, along with other department programs, into a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

I personally talked to the Secretary who strongly supports this legislation. I believe DHS is making good progress in this direction, but this legislation will ensure that they have the necessary authorities to counter these dangerous threats.

This is an opportunity, I believe, for both parties on the day after 9/11—both Republican and Democrat, as we do so many times on this committee—to come together and pass legislation that will strengthen our homeland.

I would like to thank Congressman DONOVAN from New York, where this awful, tragic event happened 17 years ago, for all of his hard work on this issue, and Congressman PAYNE, who has always been a team player, if you will, on the other side of the aisle, for working together to get good things done for the country which will better protect the American people.

□ 1445

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the ultimate success of the CWMD Office rests with the dedicated men and women who have served at the Department.

The threat landscape is diverse, with conventional and nonconventional threats emerging daily. It is critical that we stay vigilant and do all we can to ensure that the Federal Department we established in response to the 9/11

attacks is positioned to meet the demands of the current threat landscape. By passing H.R. 6198, we can do our part to set the CWMD Office on a positive course.

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6198, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6198, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6720) to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6720

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 "Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SLAUGHTER OF DOGS AND CATS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), no person may—

(1) knowingly slaughter a dog or cat for human consumption; or

(2) knowingly ship, transport, move, deliver, receive, possess, purchase, sell, or donate—

(A) a dog or cat to be slaughtered for human consumption; or

(B) a dog or cat part for human consumption.

(b) SCOPE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only with respect to conduct—

(1) in interstate commerce or foreign commerce; or

(2) within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to an Indian (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) carrying out any activity described in subsection (a) for the purpose of a religious ceremony.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a fine in an amount not greater than \$5,000 for each violation.

(e) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section—

(1) limits any State or local law or regulation protecting the welfare of animals; or

(2) prevents a State or unit of local government from adopting and enforcing an animal welfare law or regulation that is more stringent than this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6720, to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption, and for other purposes.

While this practice is completely unacceptable in the United States, only four States explicitly ban it. This patchwork of State laws does not signal the appropriate protection we Americans expect for our beloved pets and companions.

To credibly condemn the international dog and cat meat trade, including the Yulin Dog Meat Festival in China, the United States must send a clear message that this practice is completely unacceptable. This overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation is a crucial step in doing just that.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6720, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and this bipartisan legislation. The Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act calls for an end to the global dog and cat meat trade.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans own pets. We treat our pets as members of the family. That is why I am surprised to learn that we don't already have a law on the books that prevents the killing of dogs and cats for their meat.

While this remains an extremely rare issue in the United States, the practice does occur elsewhere in the world. By passing this bill, Congress will outlaw the slaughter and transfer of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

The farm bill currently in conference includes similar language from both the House and the Senate, so regardless of what our colleagues across the Hill do on this important issue, we can send an important message today.

With this legislation, we have the chance to be a leader and set an example for those countries in which the cat and dog meat trade is most prevalent, including South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, China, and elsewhere. By passing

this bill, we draw a clear line on this issue and send a message to the world that we will hold countries who abide this practice accountable.

It should be pointed out that while prohibiting the killing of dogs and cats for food may be seen as a no-brainer, this legislation does take a sensitive approach to the issue with regard to the diverse cultural practices within our great Nation.

I appreciate the work of the two gentlemen from Florida, Messrs. BUCHANAN and HASTINGS, and their leadership on this issue. It is an opportunity to come together, and we should be united in our opposition to this unconscionable practice.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to voice my strong support for H.R. 6720, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018. It is critical that every single Member of this Chamber live up to our responsibilities to be a voice for the voiceless, and banning the individual sale of dog and cat meat is vital, clearly, to fulfilling that obligation.

Mr. Speaker, in my district of Bucks and Montgomery Counties, as is the case across this Nation, our pets are members of the family who contribute greatly to our society. In particular, dogs serve as invaluable partners in law enforcement, our military, and as service animals.

Today, we have before us bipartisan, commonsense legislation that protects these animals at the most basic level. It seems obvious that, in this day and age, dogs and cats are not edible species, period.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) for introducing this vital legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it in a bipartisan fashion to show a united front against the horrors of the dog and cat meat trade.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my very distinguished colleague.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and good friend from the Virgin Islands as well as the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for putting this measure forward today.

Obviously, I support H.R. 6720, to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption. I was pleased to join my distinguished colleague and co-chairman of the Florida delegation, Congressman VERN BUCHANAN, in reintroducing the measure.

It might surprise you to learn that consumption of dogs and cats is still legal in 44 States, where there are no

laws prohibiting the purchasing, shipping, transporting, selling, or donating of dogs or cats to be slaughtered for human consumption. This bill would prohibit these actions and impose penalties to ensure that individuals involved in the dog or cat meat trade are held accountable.

The United States' position on this cruel and brutal practice should be unequivocal: Dogs and cats should not be killed in this country for the consumption of their meat. It is with the utmost importance that we unify our animal cruelty laws in all 50 States and explicitly ban the torture and killing of dogs and cats for human consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUCHANAN for his steadfast leadership in raising awareness on animal welfare issues in Congress, and I also give a big shout-out to all those who have helped us put this measure together in the United States, the number of people who have been involved.

I hope this body will expeditiously pass the measure. Doing so will reaffirm the United States' commitment to the humane treatment of our most beloved companions.

I might add, I misspoke a minute ago when I said the 50 States. I mean the 50 States and its territories should explicitly ban the torture.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I simply urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6720, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6720.

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.

FIGHTING FRAUD TO PROTECT CARE FOR SENIORS ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6690) to establish a smart card pilot program to combat fraud, waste, and abuse and to protect beneficiary identity under the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6690

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 "Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. MEDICARE SMART CARD PILOT PROGRAM.

Part E of title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1866E the following new section:

"SEC. 1866F. SMART CARD PILOT PROGRAM.

"(a) IMPLEMENTATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') to evaluate the feasibility of using smart card technology under this title.

"(2) SMART CARD TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'smart card technology' means the following:

"(A) BENEFICIARY SMART CARD.—A machine readable, tamper-resistant card (in this section referred to as a 'smart card') that includes an embedded integrated circuit chip with a secure micro-controller (as defined by the National Institute on Standards and Technology) that enables the verification and secure, electronic authentication of the identity of a Medicare beneficiary at the point of service through a combination of the smart card and a personal identification number known by or associated with such beneficiary.

"(B) CARD READER TECHNOLOGY.—Information technology that enables a supplier and provider to authenticate the identity of a Medicare beneficiary through presentation of such a smart card and such components, with such authentication to be reflected through the use of a modifier or in another appropriate manner, as determined by the Secretary, in the claims adjudication process.

"(3) PROGRAM DESIGN ELEMENTS.—The pilot program shall be conducted for a period of 3 years consistent with the following:

"(A) SELECTION OF AREA.—In consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Secretary shall select at least 3 geographic areas in which the pilot program will operate.

"(B) SELECTION OF SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER TYPES.—In consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Secretary shall select supplier and provider types that will be required to participate in the pilot program (referred to in this section as 'participating suppliers and providers'). In selecting such supplier and provider types, the Secretary shall—

"(i) take into account the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse (as described in section 1866(j)(2)(B)) with respect to the category of provider or supplier) and other factors as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

"(ii) limit the pilot program to no more than 2,000 suppliers and providers.

"(C) SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary shall exempt from participation in the pilot program a supplier or provider that either—

"(i) does not have access to card reader technology (as described in paragraph (2)(B));

"(ii) does not have sufficient internet access;

or

"(iii) has a low volume (as determined by the Secretary) of Medicare claims for which payment is made under this title.

"(D) SMART CARD AND SMART CARD READER ISSUANCE.—

"(i) BENEFICIARY SMART CARD ISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall provide for, at no cost, the issuance (and, if necessary, replacement) of beneficiary smart cards described in paragraph (2)(A) to all Medicare beneficiaries residing in a geographic area in which the pilot program is conducted under subparagraph (A). Information that appears on Medicare cards used outside the pilot program may appear on the face of the beneficiary smart card.

"(ii) SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER SMART CARD READER ISSUANCE.—At the request of a participating supplier or provider, the Secretary shall provide for, at no cost, the issuance to such supplier or provider of smart card hardware and

software necessary to participate in the pilot program.

“(E) INFORMATION ON OPERATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall provide participating suppliers and providers and Medicare beneficiaries who are furnished items and services by such suppliers and providers, with information on the operation of the pilot program, including privacy protections described in subparagraph (I).

“(F) ACCESS TO SERVICES OUTSIDE THE PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(i) BENEFICIARIES.—Medicare beneficiaries who receive beneficiary smart cards may receive items and services from suppliers and providers not participating in the pilot program.

“(ii) SUPPLIERS AND PROVIDER CLAIMS.—

“(I) SUPPLIERS AND PROVIDERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN PILOT.—Suppliers and providers not participating in the pilot program may submit claims under this title for items and services furnished without use of smart card technology to Medicare beneficiaries who receive beneficiary smart cards.

“(II) PARTICIPATING SUPPLIERS AND PROVIDERS FURNISHING SERVICES TO NON-PARTICIPATING BENEFICIARIES.—Supplier and providers participating in the pilot program may submit claims under this title for items and services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries who do not receive beneficiary smart cards.

“(G) CLARIFICATION ON ACCESS TO SERVICES WITHOUT SMART CARDS.—In the case of a Medicare beneficiary who receives a beneficiary smart card and does not present such card at the time of receipt of items or services from a participating supplier or provider, the participating supplier or provider—

“(i) shall furnish such items or services to such Medicare beneficiary as if such beneficiary does present such card;

“(ii) may submit claims under this title for such items or services; and

“(iii) shall provide, in accordance with such manner, process, and timing as specified by the Secretary, information to the Secretary (through the contractor described in subparagraph (H)) that such beneficiary received such a smart card but did not have the smart card at the time the items or services were furnished.

“(H) PRIVATE SECTOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall select, by using a competitive procurement process in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), a private sector contractor to implement and operate the pilot program.

“(I) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the pilot program complies with applicable Federal laws and regulations concerning individually identifiable health information, including the Privacy Act of 1974 and regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and such individually identifiable information shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

“(J) MANDATORY PARTICIPATION.—Subject to subparagraph (C), in the case of items or services furnished by a provider or supplier included in a supplier or provider type selected under subparagraph (B) in a geographic area selected under subparagraph (A), payment may only be made under this title for such items or services during the period of the pilot program if the provider or supplier is participating in the pilot program.

“(K) PROHIBITION OF SMART CARD FEES.—No transaction, utilization, or other fees may be imposed on Medicare beneficiaries or participating suppliers and providers with respect to the use of smart cards under the pilot program.

“(4) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall convene a panel consisting of stakeholders (including representatives of

providers, suppliers, technology vendors, Medicare beneficiaries, and claims processing contractors) selected by the Secretary for purposes of providing input to the Secretary on the implementation of the pilot program (including on the selection of areas and participants under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) and the development of exemptions and requirements described in such paragraph).

“(B) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the panel convened pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) The terms ‘supplier’ and ‘provider’ have the meanings given the terms ‘supplier’ and ‘provider of services’ in subsections (d) and (u), respectively, of section 1861.

“(B) The term ‘Medicare beneficiary’ means an individual who is enrolled in the original Medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B and is not enrolled in an MA plan under part C, an eligible organization under section 1876, or a PACE program under section 1894.

“(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress the following reports:

“(1) INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date the pilot program is implemented, an interim report on the performance of such program.

“(2) FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the completion of the pilot program, a final evaluation on the effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the following:

“(A) An evaluation of the effect of the pilot program on potential fraud under the insurance programs established under this title.

“(B) A description of any barriers to implementation of the pilot program.

“(C) Participant feedback on the pilot program.

“(D) Recommendations regarding the future use of smart cards to address fraud under this title.

“(E) Data on the information provided under subsection (a)(3)(G)(iii).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROSKAM. 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 H.R. 6690, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to do something together on a bipartisan basis that can bring a level of confidence to a program that all of us cherish and all of us want to defend, and that is Medicare. Medicare is an incredibly popular program. It is a necessary program, and it is a program that needs all of us to defend it, particularly on the integrity side.

If Medicare were to ask CMS today what their fraudulent or erroneous payment rate is, those two numbers together, they would come back and they would tell them it is about 10 percent. So, in other words, about \$40 billion a

year, Mr. Speaker, is going out the door not to benefit seniors, but it is going out the door either fraudulently or erroneously.

I thank Mr. BLUMENAUER from Oregon because, together, we have been working on this concept which would apply the same type of technology that we see in so many other parts of the economy right now, and that is smart card technology, and use it in a Medicare setting. The proposal is this: Let's try it. Let's see how it works. Let's have a pilot program.

Toward that end, what we are hoping and the expectation is that the same types of savings that we have seen in the private sector we will see in this sector to make sure that seniors are protected, not only the funds that seniors have come to rely on, but their identities and so forth.

This is a concept, again, that Mr. BLUMENAUER and I have worked on.

I thank Chairman BRADY for his work on this bill and the attention that this has gotten on a bipartisan basis.

□ 1500

I think it is particularly interesting to note that AARP has weighed in very strongly in favor of it. Let me just read one quick snapshot from a letter that they sent to Mr. BLUMENAUER and me at the end of August, and I will just give you a couple of sentences.

“While the new cards are more secure than before, ‘smart cards’ could provide even greater security, and have the potential to contain useful health information and facilitate care. If enacted, this pilot program would also help Medicare learn more about the beneficiary engagement and education. This technology deserves to be tested and evaluated.”

Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell, this is a proposal to create a pilot program. I urge its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2018.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN: I write to you regarding several health bills the Committee on Ways and Means ordered favorably reported to the House. The following bills were also referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I ask that the Committee on Energy and Commerce waive formal consideration of the following bills so that they may proceed expeditiously to the House floor:

H.R. 6662, Empowering Seniors' Enrollment Decision Act of 2018;

H.R. 6690, Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act of 2018;

H.R. 6561, Comprehensive Care for Seniors Act of 2018; and

H.R. 3635, Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act of 2018.

I acknowledge that by waiving formal consideration of the bills, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bills that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of

an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3635, Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act of 2018; H.R. 6561, Comprehensive Care for Seniors Act of 2018; H.R. 6662, Empowering Seniors' Enrollment Decision Act of 2018; and H.R. 6690, Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act of 2018.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo consideration of both bills so that they may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

I appreciate your assurance that by forgoing action on these bills, the Committee is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bills. I also appreciate your offer of support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is the first of four bills that came out of the Ways and Means Committee. They came out without much controversy. The only one that really had any is this first bill. I am not sure we will have any speakers on our side. I will say a few words about this bill in a few minutes.

I first want to talk a bit about bipartisanship. These four bills do have some bipartisanship. Unfortunately, what isn't bipartisan is the basic dispute about healthcare and about the continuation of the reform that we on the Democratic side started some years ago with our President.

It has turned out to be an important piece of legislation—I think historic—and the more people look at it and the more they are covered by it, the greater the support for it.

Unfortunately, unlike the bipartisanship in these four bills, ACA continues to be hit by the worst kind of partisanship and continued efforts to undermine and destroy it.

In October 2017, the administration ended cost-sharing reduction subsidies. That has led to premium increases of 20 to 25 percent across the Nation. In June of this year, the Trump administration expanded the reach of junk insurance policies that have weakened the risk pool, and these policies are not subject to consumer protections.

In July, we saw the impact of this firsthand in Michigan. The administration announced another cut in so-called navigator organizations. They

slashed the funding from \$63 million just 2 years ago to \$10 million. It had an impact throughout this country, and I saw firsthand what it meant in the State of Michigan.

Essentially, the administration said we are going to cut and essentially eliminate help for outreach to people in terms of their knowing about the ACA and how, as millions of others have, they can obtain coverage.

I think maybe most disturbing, last week, the Federal court heard arguments in *Texas v. the United States*. It is a lawsuit launched by Republicans that could jeopardize healthcare for 130 million patients living with preexisting conditions. The Republicans like to point to language that says that won't happen. But essentially, I think they have their heads in the sand on this if the court were to rule in favor of the suit. I think, to the disgrace of the administration, they decided not to defend the government's position.

So we are here today with bipartisan bills, and it is really sad—indeed, worse than that. We haven't had a single hearing on any of the issues I mentioned. And the Republicans, while they come here and talk about bipartisanship, which has been so essential until recent years when it comes to healthcare, they now essentially are engaging in very partisan efforts to undermine healthcare for millions and millions of people.

So let me just say, Mr. Speaker, a brief word about this. Mr. ROSKAM has been working on this for a long time, working with Mr. BLUMENAUER, and I think the gentleman's efforts to strive for some bipartisanship have been a positive.

As I said at the beginning, of all four bills, this one had the most discussion in our committee and had some disagreement. The smart card idea has been examined by a number of entities, including the Government Accountability Office. According to their 2016 report—and I have copies of their report of 2016, and there is also another report that relates to this—according to that, their estimate was that smart cards would help in only a minority of cases. In fact, of the 739 healthcare fraud cases that the GAO examined, only 18 would have been fully addressed had Medicare used these cards. That is only about 2 percent of the cases.

Also, transition to smart cards is going to be significant, and the estimate is that it is going to cost about \$40 million. As we discussed in the committee, some thought there might be a better use of this money.

Be that as it may, this has been worked on, and Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. BLUMENAUER have combined forces to undertake this 3-year pilot program.

So under those circumstances, wishing we had more bipartisanship on healthcare issues that run more deeply and affect the needs of people even more broadly, with that caveat, I do

not suggest anything but support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further conversation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN for his observations about this bill, that it is created in a spirit of bipartisanship, and I appreciate his support for it.

I think it is interesting, just a little bit of a point of clarification, because we were able to discuss in the committee the GAO report. There are two facets of it. There are two numbers, and those people who are tracking this closely will care about it. There is one 2 percent representation and then a 22 percent representation.

Here is the story. The GAO said only 2 percent of cases that they evaluated would have been completely changed by this. I think if we were talking about any other thing in Medicare as it relates to 2 percent, we would be chasing it. Be that as it may, 2 percent would be completely changed. Twenty-two percent of the cases they evaluated, however, would be impacted in some way.

So the bottom line here is that we have an opportunity to adopt technology at a cost of about \$40 million, we are told, to pursue \$40 billion in fraud and error. That is good math any day of the week. Both sides of the aisle recognize it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6690, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMPOWERING SENIORS' ENROLLMENT DECISION ACT OF 2018

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6662) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the special election period under part C of the Medicare program for certain deemed individuals enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract to certain nondeemed individuals enrolled in such contract, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6662

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 "Empowering Seniors' Enrollment Decision Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. EXTENDING THE SPECIAL ELECTION PERIOD UNDER PART C OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN DEEMED INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN A REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT TO ANY MA ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL ENROLLED IN SUCH A CONTRACT DURING THE FINAL YEAR SUCH A CONTRACT IS EXTENDED; EXTENDING CONVERSIONS OF REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS TO MA PLANS.

(a) EXTENDING THE SPECIAL ELECTION PERIOD UNDER PART C OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN DEEMED INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN A REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT TO ANY MA ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL ENROLLED IN SUCH A CONTRACT DURING THE FINAL YEAR SUCH A CONTRACT IS EXTENDED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e)(2)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(2)(F)) is amended—

(A) in the header, by striking “DEEMED ELECTIONS” and inserting “INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN A REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT”; and

(B) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a reasonable cost reimbursement contract under section 1876(h) that is not extended or renewed, an individual enrolled in the contract for the final year in which such contract is extended or renewed may, at any time during the period beginning after the last day of the annual, coordinated election period under paragraph (3) occurring during such final year and ending on the last day of February of the first plan year following such final year, change the election under subsection (a)(1) (including changing the MA plan or MA-PD plan in which the individual is enrolled) for such first plan year following such final year.”.

(2) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO DEEMED INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN A REASONABLE REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT.—Section 1851(c)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(c)(4)(A)) is amended—

(A) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) such previous plan year was the final year in which such contract was extended or renewed;”; and

(B) in clause (iii) by striking “subclause (III) of such section” and inserting “section 1876(h)(5)(C)(iv)(IV)”.

(b) EXTENDING CONVERSIONS OF REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS TO MA PLANS.—Section 1876(h)(5)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395mm(h)(5)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iv)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking the last sentence;

(B) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (V) as subclauses (II) through (VI), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subclause (II), as so redesignated, the following subclause:

“(I) The final year in which such contract is extended or renewed is referred to in this subsection as the ‘last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract.’;”; and

(D) in subclause (V), as so redesignated, by striking “subclause (III)” and inserting “subclause (IV)”;

(2) in clause (v), by striking “that is extended or renewed pursuant to clause (iv) provides the notice described in clause (iv)(III)” and inserting “that is not to be extended or renewed provides the notice described in clause (iv)(IV)”.

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

tleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6662, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, our seniors deserve to have adequate time to choose the Medicare plan that best fits their healthcare needs. This is especially important today for seniors who are currently enrolled in a Medicare cost plan that will be impacted by a mandatory transition date starting on January 1 of next year.

That is why I authored and introduced this legislation, H.R. 6662, the Empowering Seniors' Enrollment Decision Act, to ensure that cost plan enrollees have extra enrollment time when choosing a Medicare plan later this fall.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman KIND, for his work on this legislation, as well and his bipartisan support.

It is recognized there are more than 630,000 cost plan enrollees nationwide. Approximately 400,000 of those enrollees are actually in my State in Minnesota. Now some cost plan beneficiaries will be allowed to stay with their current cost plan, and others will be deemed, or automatically enrolled, later at the end of this year to a new Medicare Advantage plan. Nondeemed beneficiaries, however, will be forced to shop for new Medicare coverage.

This bipartisan bill we have before us today extends and moves the special enrollment period for all cost plan enrollees from December 8 until the end of February of next year, 2019. So the bill would essentially fix current law to allow cost plans to deem existing enrollees into new Medicare Advantage plans in future years. H.R. 6662 provides much-needed certainty for our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the committee and Congressman KIND for their work on partnering with this effort, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a technical change, and it needed to be done. The special enrollment period did not initially apply to nondeemed enrollees. So to address this concern, CMS has promulgated regulations allowing nondeemed enrollees to participate in this special enrollment period.

So what this bill does is to simply codify this regulation. So it is not

clear that it is necessary to codify it, but, surely, there can be no harm. There is a need to take action, and, therefore, I support this bill.

As I discussed earlier on this legislation, there was bipartisan support. I wish that that kind of bipartisanship had been spread to issues that aren't technical and issues that involve the lives and health of millions of people. That never has been forthcoming. The opposite has been true.

This is an example of bipartisanship on this specific technical issue.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just to remind our Members, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN for his comments on the bipartisan components of this bill as well.

The bill does provide and ensure that there is certainty for our seniors who may need a little bit of extra time as they navigate their Medicare choices and they decide which choices and options are best for them. This can be a cumbersome and confusing process.

I want to thank, again, Representative KIND, my colleague, for his work on this bill. We look forward to having a strong bipartisan vote in the House as it moves forward.

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

□ 1515

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6662, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the special election period under part C of the Medicare program for certain deemed individuals enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract to any Medicare Advantage eligible individual enrolled in such a contract during the final year such contract is extended, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR SENIORS ACT OF 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6561) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize certain proposed provisions relating to the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6561

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 “Comprehensive Care for Seniors Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ISSUE A FINAL REGULATION BASED ON THE PROPOSED REGULATION RELATING TO THE PROGRAMS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE) UNDER THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS.

Not later than December 31, 2018, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a final regulation based on the provisions of the proposed regulation titled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)” (81 Fed. Reg. 54666).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WALORSKI. 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 H.R. 6561, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6561, the Comprehensive Care for Seniors Act of 2018. This bipartisan legislation would require the Secretary of HHS to finalize updated regulations for the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, commonly known as PACE, while still giving the Secretary the flexibility to make updates and changes to the proposed regulation.

The PACE program is a proven model for delivering high-quality, comprehensive, community-based healthcare for seniors. It helps seniors whose health conditions would otherwise land them in a nursing home to remain in their homes for as long as possible by allowing them to see health professionals and social service providers at local PACE centers.

There are currently 123 PACE organizations in 31 States that serve over 45,000 Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, enabling them to live safely in the community through the fully integrated services and support provided. This allows beneficiaries to live longer, experience better health, and have fewer hospital visits. Seniors facing health challenges should have the option to receive high-quality healthcare while continuing to live at home, and programs like St. Joseph PACE in Mishawaka, in my district, allow them to do just that.

In 2016, CMS released a proposed rule to update the original guidelines from 2006. A bipartisan group of Members of Congress sent letters in November of 2017 and June of 2018 urging CMS to prioritize updating the existing regu-

latory framework, which is more than a decade old. The agency has, unfortunately, not taken any action.

This much-needed update would allow PACE programs to customize their interdisciplinary team around the needs of each enrollee, provide more services in the community, and give greater flexibility to partner with community providers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Indiana has described very well the purpose of this legislation. There are, I think, at least five sponsors of this legislation, Democrats and Republicans, and it is another example of bipartisanship on a rather technical issue, technical in this sense.

There was always a need for regulation, and CMS proposed, now, 2 years ago, a regulation updating the requirements governing PACE. Unfortunately, under this present administration, CMS has not finalized these rules. What this bill essentially requires is that CMS finalize these regulations by December 31, 2018. Hopefully, that can occur before 2031.

We sometimes do too much on December 31 of a year. I have been here in session a few times on December 31, I think.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and recommend its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives JENKINS, BLUMENAUER, CHU, KIND, BILIRAKIS, DINGELL, and CHRIS SMITH, for their hard work getting this bill to this point and their previous work on this issue.

The PACE program is long overdue for an update. This bipartisan, commonsense legislation will ensure improvements are made quickly so more seniors can live in their communities longer.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6561, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue a final regulation based on the proposed regulation relating to the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3635) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3635

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 “Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MEDICARE LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION (LCD) PROCESS FOR SPECIFIED LCDS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR SPECIFIED LCDS.—Section 1862(1)(5)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(1)(5)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) PROCESS FOR ISSUING SPECIFIED LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a specified local coverage determination (as defined in clause (ii)) within an area by a medicare administrative contractor, such medicare administrative contractor must take the following actions with respect to such determination before such determination may take effect:

“(I) Publish on the public Internet website of the intermediary or carrier a proposed version of the specified local coverage determination (in this subparagraph referred to as a ‘draft determination’), a written rationale for the draft determination, and a description of all evidence relied upon and considered by the intermediary or carrier in the development of the draft determination.

“(II) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the intermediary or carrier publishes the draft determination in accordance with subclause (I), convene one or more open, public meetings to review the draft determination, receive comments with respect to the draft determination, and secure the advice of an expert panel (such as a carrier advisory committee described in chapter 13 of the Medicare Program Integrity Manual in effect on August 31, 2015) with respect to the draft determination. The intermediary or carrier shall make available means for the public to attend such meetings remotely, such as via teleconference.

“(III) With respect to each meeting convened pursuant to subclause (II), post on the public Internet website of the intermediary or carrier, not later than 14 days after such meeting is convened, a record of the minutes for such meeting, which may be a recording of the meeting.

“(IV) Provide a period for submission of written public comment on such draft determination that begins on the date on which all records required to be posted with respect to such draft determination under subclause (III) are so posted and that is not fewer than 30 days in duration.

“(ii) FINALIZING A SPECIFIED LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION.—A fiscal intermediary or carrier that has entered into a contract with the Secretary under section 1874A shall, with respect to a specified local coverage determination, post on the public Internet website of the fiscal intermediary or carrier the following information before

the specified local coverage determination (in this subparagraph referred to as the ‘final determination’) takes effect—

“(I) a response to the relevant issues raised at meetings convened pursuant to clause (i)(II) with respect to the draft determination;

“(II) the rationale for the final determination;

“(III) in the case that the intermediary or carrier considered qualifying evidence (as defined in clause (v)) that was not described in the written notice provided pursuant to clause (i)(I), a description of such qualifying evidence; and

“(IV) an effective date for the final determination that is not less than 30 days after the date on which such determination is so posted.

“(iii) SPECIFIED LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified local coverage determination’ means, with respect to the relevant geographic area—

“(I) a new local coverage determination;

“(II) a revised local coverage determination for such geographic area that restricts one or more existing terms of coverage for such area (such as by adding requirement to an existing local coverage determination that results in decreased coverage or by deleting previously covered ICD-9 or ICD-10 codes (for reasons other than routine coding changes));

“(III) a revised local coverage determination that makes a substantive revision to one or more existing local coverage determinations; or

“(IV) any other local coverage determination specified by the Secretary pursuant to regulations.

“(iv) QUALIFYING EVIDENCE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘qualifying evidence’ means publicly available evidence of general acceptance by the medical community, such as published original research in peer-reviewed medical journals, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, evidence-based consensus statements, and clinical guidelines.”

(b) LCD RECONSIDERATION PROCESS.—Section 1869(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ff(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “(including the reconsiderations described in paragraphs (8) and (9))” after “local coverage determination”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “(except for a reconsideration described in paragraphs (8) and (9))” after “the coverage determination”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (13); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraphs:

“(8) CARRIER OR FISCAL INTERMEDIARY RECONSIDERATION PROCESS FOR SPECIFIED LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.—Upon the filing of a request by an interested party (as defined in paragraph (11)(B)) with respect to a specified local coverage determination by a fiscal intermediary or carrier that has entered into a contract with the Secretary under section 1874A, the intermediary or carrier shall reconsider such determination in accordance with the following process:

“(A) Not later than 30 days after such a request is filed with the fiscal intermediary or carrier by the interested party with respect to such determination, the intermediary or carrier shall—

“(i) determine whether the request is an applicable request; and

“(ii) in the case that the request is not an applicable request, inform the interested party of the reasons why such request is not an applicable request.

“(B) In the case that the intermediary or carrier determines under subparagraph (A) that the request described in such subparagraph is an applicable request, the intermediary or carrier shall, not later than 90 days after the date on which the request was filed with the intermediary or carrier, take the actions described in subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) with respect to the determination.

“(C) The action described in this subparagraph is the action of specifying whether any of the following statements is applicable to the determination:

“(i) The determination did not reasonably consider qualifying evidence relevant to such determination.

“(ii) The determination used language that exceeded the scope of the intended purpose of the determination.

“(iii) The determination was incorrect in its determination of whether such item or service is reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury under section 1862(a)(1)(A).

“(iv) The determination failed to describe, with respect to such an item or service, the clinical conditions to be used for purposes of determining whether such item or service is reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury under section 1862(a)(1)(A).

“(v) The determination does not apply with respect to items or services to which it was intended to apply.

“(vi) The determination is erroneous for another reason that the intermediary or carrier identifies.

“(D) The action described in this subparagraph, with respect to the determination, is the action of taking, based on the specification under subparagraph (C) of whether any of the statements in such subparagraph applied to such determination, one or more of the following actions:

“(i) Making no change in the determination.

“(ii) Rescinding all or a part of the determination.

“(iii) Modifying the determination to restrict the coverage provided under this title for an item or service that is subject to the determination.

“(iv) Modifying the determination to expand the coverage provided under this title for an item or service that is subject to the determination.

“(E) The action described in this subparagraph is the action of making publicly available a written description of the action taken under subparagraph (D) with respect to the determination, including the evidence considered by the medicare administrative contractor.

“(9) AGENCY REVIEW OF RECONSIDERATION DECISION.—The Secretary shall establish a process to review a medicare administrative contractor’s technical compliance with the requirements, including ensuring that the medicare administrative contractor independently reviewed the evidence involved, of the reconsideration under paragraph (8).

“(10) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (8) may be construed as affecting the right of an aggrieved party to file a complaint under paragraph (2)(A) and receive a determination in accordance with the provisions of such paragraph. An aggrieved party is not required to file a request under paragraph (8) or (9) prior to filing a complaint under paragraph (2).

“(11) DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO PARAGRAPHS (8) AND (9).—For purposes of paragraphs (8) and (9):

“(A) The term ‘applicable request’ means a request that is submitted in fiscal year 2019 or a subsequent fiscal year, that is solely with respect to a specified local coverage de-

termination, and that includes a description of the rationale for such request and any information or evidence supporting such request. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the Secretary may not require, as a condition of treating a request with respect to such a determination as an applicable request, that the request contain qualifying evidence that was not considered in the development of such determination.

“(B) The term ‘interested party’ means, with respect to a specified local coverage determination within an area by a fiscal intermediary or carrier that has entered into a contract with the Secretary under section 1874A, a beneficiary or stakeholder (including a medical professional society or physician).

“(C) The term ‘qualifying evidence’ has the meaning given such term by clause (iv) of section 1862(l)(5)(D).

“(D) The term ‘specified local coverage determination’ has the meaning given such term by clause (iii) of such section.

“(12) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year (beginning with 2019), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the following:

“(A) The number of requests filed with fiscal intermediaries and carriers under paragraph (8), and the number of appeals filed with the Secretary under paragraph (9), during the 1-year period ending on such date.

“(B) With respect to such requests filed with such intermediaries and carriers under paragraph (8) during such period, the number of times that intermediaries and carriers took, with respect to the actions described in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of such paragraph, each such action.

“(C) With respect to such appeals filed with the Secretary under paragraph (9) during such period, the number of times that the Secretary took, with respect to the actions described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (8), each such action.

“(D) Recommendations on ways to improve—

“(i) the efficacy and the efficiency of the process described in paragraph (8); and

“(ii) communication with individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under part B, providers of services, and suppliers regarding such process.”

SEC. 3. PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS; APPLICATION DATE.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate regulations to carry out paragraph (5)(D) of section 1862(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(l)), as amended by subsection (a), and paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1869(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ff(f)), as inserted by subsection (b), in such a manner as to ensure that the processes described in such paragraphs are fully implemented by January 1, 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. 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 H.R. 3635, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 3635, the Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act. I introduced this legislation along with Congressman KIND, which will help ensure the Medicare coverage decisions are made by qualified health experts through a transparent process that is based on sound medical evidence.

Medicare administrative contractors, or MACs, play a critical role in ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have access to needed care. However, the less-than-transparent process used by MACs to make coverage decisions can limit or deny patients' access to necessary care.

Specifically, the science that guides some of these decisions can be flawed, mischaracterized, or misapplied. The deliberations and decisions of the MACs, which should be based on medical science, are often conducted behind closed doors, with little opportunity for interested stakeholders to raise issues or offer alternatives. These decisions affect millions of Medicare beneficiaries and impact crucial access to innovative technologies and services.

The establishment of a clear process informed by health experts will make the local coverage determination, or LCD, process and the decisions developed by that process more sound, more transparent, and ensure accountability among MACs. These requirements are necessary to ensure that our Nation's seniors receive quality healthcare treatment.

Specifically, H.R. 3635 would improve the LCD process by requiring that carrier advisory committee meetings of the MAC are open, public, and on the record, with minutes taken and posted to the MAC's website for public inspection. The gravity of limiting or precluding coverage for both beneficiaries and practitioners heightens the need for transparency, especially when such meetings are currently closed off.

MACs would be required to include, at the outset of the coverage determination process, a description of the evidence a MAC considered when drafting a local coverage determination as well as the rationale it relies on to deny coverage.

Additionally, under current rules, local coverage determinations are essentially unreviewable once they become final. This legislation would create a process for stakeholders to request additional review of a MAC's local coverage decision from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

It would also require the Secretary to submit a report to Congress regarding the number of requests filed with fiscal intermediaries and carriers and the number of appeals filed with the Secretary, as well as the actions in response. Additionally, the report would recommend ways to improve the use-

fulness and efficiency of the process as well as the communication with Medicare beneficiaries and providers.

While I am pleased that the legislation we have here today takes steps to improve the process and bring transparency to protect access for Medicare patients, we must continue to work to ensure that MACs independently evaluate the evidence of other MACs' coverage decisions. Local coverage determinations should be thoroughly evaluated by experts in each local jurisdiction.

Currently, loopholes in the process allow contractors to adopt another MAC's coverage determination without the necessary scientific rigor and meaningful engagement with stakeholders that is vital in forming the most appropriate policy. Due to regional, geographic, and population-based deficiencies, these carbon-copied LCDs may not reflect the specific geographic region they are intended to serve. Local coverage determinations should be just that—local.

Put simply, what works best for one location does not always work best for another location. Applying local coverage determinations across jurisdictions has the practical effect of establishing national coverage policies without having followed the more rigorous national coverage determination process. As such, I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue, moving forward.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve transparency and accountability for these decisions that directly impact their access to care. These reforms are necessary to ensure that local coverage determinations do not impede a physician's medical judgment and deny patients access to medically necessary care. By changing the LCD process, Congress can ensure that medical and scientific evidence is not used selectively to deny appropriate coverage to seniors.

I want to thank Mr. KIND, who joined me in introducing this legislation.

I want to ask my colleagues for their bipartisan support of this bill as we work to improve access and care for every American.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague has well described the purpose of this legislation. As she indicated, the bill establishes a timeline through which MACs must publish proposed LCDs online. She described what they are so the public can be sure what MACs and LCDs are.

It would further require public meetings to review draft determinations and ensure expert input is being sought on all proposals.

The bill also provides that stakeholders and beneficiaries, as she mentioned, may request reconsideration of LCDs and that MACs must respond to these requests.

These are small but useful improvements to the local coverage determination process. It will help improve transparency and ensure that appropriate coverage determinations are made for Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to indicate support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am proud to stand here today in support of this commonsense legislation that creates transparency and accountability to the local coverage determinations process and will help ensure that Medicare patients receive the medical care they need.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will join me in voting for this legislation on the House floor today as we work to improve access and care for every American, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3635, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

STATE INSURANCE REGULATION PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5059) to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act with respect to the registration and supervision of insurance savings and loan holding companies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5059

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. SUPERVISION OF INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 10(a)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)(1)) is amended by inserting at the end the following:

"(K) DOMICILE.—The term 'domicile' means the State in which an insurance underwriting company or the holding company for such company is incorporated, chartered, or organized.

"(L) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term 'business of insurance' means any activity that is regulated in accordance with the relevant State insurance laws and regulations, including the writing of insurance and the reinsuring of risks.

"(M) INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term 'insurance savings and loan holding company' means—

“(i) a savings and loan holding company with 75 percent or more of its total consolidated assets in an insurance underwriting company (or insurance underwriting companies), other than assets associated with insurance for credit risk, during the 4 most recent consecutive quarters, as calculated in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or the Statutory Accounting Principles in accordance with State law;

“(ii) a company that—

“(I) was a savings and loan holding company as of July 21, 2010, and through date of enactment of this clause; and

“(II) was not subject to the Basel III capital regulation promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Comptroller of the Currency on October 11, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 62018), because the savings and loan holding company held 25 percent or more of its total consolidated assets in subsidiaries that are insurance underwriting companies (other than assets associated with insurance for credit risk); or

“(iii) a top-tier savings and loan holding company that—

“(I) was registered as a savings and loan holding company before July 21, 2010; and

“(II) is a New York not-for-profit corporation formed for the purpose of holding the stock of a New York insurance company.

“(N) INSURANCE UNDERWRITING COMPANY.—The term ‘insurance underwriting company’ means an insurer that is subject to regulation by a State insurance authority of the insurer’s domicile.

“(O) STATE INSURANCE AUTHORITY.—The term ‘State insurance authority’ means the State insurance authority of the State in which an insurance underwriting company or holding company for such company is domiciled.

“(P) TOP-TIER SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ‘top-tier savings and loan holding company’ means the ultimate parent company in a savings and loan holding company structure.”

(b) REGISTRATION.—Section 10(b)(1) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(1)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new sentence:

“A savings and loan holding company that is an insurance savings and loan holding company shall register as an insurance savings and loan holding company.”

(c) REPORTS.—Section 10(b)(2) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.—The Board, to the fullest extent possible, shall request reports and other information filed by insurance savings and loan holding companies and any insurance underwriting company that is a subsidiary of such company with other Federal authorities and the State insurance authority for such company before requesting such reports or information from the insurance savings and loan holding company or any insurance underwriting company that is a subsidiary of such company.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting the Board from requesting reports and other information that is not otherwise collected and shared with other Federal or State authorities.”

(d) BOOKS AND RECORDS.—Section 10(b)(3) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Each” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each”; and

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

“(B) INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.—The Board, to the fullest extent possible, shall align any prescribed record-keeping requirements for an insurance savings and loan holding company with the record-keeping requirements imposed by the State insurance authority of such company and any insurance underwriting company that is a subsidiary of such company.”

(e) EXAMINATIONS.—Section 10(b)(4)(C) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(4)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking the word “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(iii) INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.—

“(I) COORDINATION.—The Board, to the fullest extent possible, shall coordinate examinations of an insurance savings and loan holding company in conjunction with the State insurance authority of such company and any insurance underwriting company that is a subsidiary of such company and other State and Federal authorities in order to minimize the potential for duplication and conflict between the examinations conducted by the Board and the examinations conducted by other State and Federal authorities.

“(II) SCOPE AND FREQUENCY.—Following public notice and comment, the Board shall establish a schedule for the frequency and the scope of examinations of insurance savings and loan holding companies that is consistent with the supervisory framework required by paragraph (7).”

(f) SUPERVISION.—Section 10(b) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.—

“(A) TAILORED SUPERVISION.—The Board, by rule, shall establish a supervisory framework for insurance savings and loan holding companies that—

“(i) is tailored to the unique risks, operations, and activities of insurance savings and loan holding companies; and

“(ii) to the fullest extent possible, and consistent with the safe and sound operation of insurance savings and loan holding companies, does not unnecessarily duplicate the supervision of insurance underwriting companies by the State insurance authorities for such companies or insurance underwriting companies that are subsidiaries of such companies.

“(B) REVIEW OF SUPERVISORY GUIDANCE.—Following public notice and comment, the Board shall review and revise supervisory policy letters and guidance applicable to insurance savings and loan holding companies to ensure that such letters and guidance are not inconsistent with the supervisory framework required by this paragraph.”

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENTS AND FEES FOR INSURANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.

Section 11(s) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248(s)), which relates to assessments and fees, is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) EXCLUDED ASSETS.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B), the total consolidated assets of an insurance savings and loan holding company, as defined in section 10(a)(1)(L) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)(1)(L)), shall not include assets attributable to the business of insurance conducted by such company or any affiliate of such company, other than assets associated with insurance for credit risk.”

SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPERVISORY FRAMEWORK.—The Board shall establish the supervisory framework required by section 10(b)(7) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(7)), as added by this Act, within 24 months of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REVIEW OF SUPERVISORY GUIDANCE.—The Board shall complete the review of supervisory policy letters and policy guidance required by section 10(b)(7) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(7)), as added by this Act, within 30 months of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Board, no later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on the implementation of this Act.

(d) BOARD DEFINED.—As used in this section, the term “Board” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not limit any authority over insurance savings and loan holding companies (as defined under section 10(a)(1) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act) that is provided by a Federal law other than the Home Owners’ Loan Act.

SEC. 6. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

The Board may issue regulations and orders as may be necessary to—

(1) administer and carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(2) prevent evasions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect the authority of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System over any subsidiary of an insurance savings and loan holding company that is not an insurance underwriting company (as such terms are defined, respectively, under section 10(a)(1) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5059, the State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act. I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for their support for this bill. I also want to commend my colleague, Representative JOYCE BEATTY from Ohio, for her leadership on this issue. It has been a pleasure working with Representative BEATTY, the ranking member’s staff, and the Federal Reserve to ensure that this

legislation is balanced, effective, and bipartisan.

This bill is a good example of how solutions-minded Members from both sides of the aisle can come together to address a clear problem. H.R. 5059 is a commonsense, right-regulation bill that calls on the Federal Reserve to tailor the supervision of insurance-focused savings and loan holding companies.

As many of you know, Dodd-Frank brought savings and loan holding companies under the Federal Reserve's supervision for the first time. Despite the fact that Dodd-Frank also reaffirmed a State-based model of insurance regulation, a principle that we all support, the law had the effect of also bringing insurance savings and loan holding companies, or ISLHCs, under the Fed's purview.

These are firms that are overwhelmingly engaged in the business of insurance but also happen to own thrift subsidiaries. These insurance companies are simultaneously regulated by the Fed and the States. The lack of clarity regarding how Fed supervision of these insurers should complement rather than supplant State regulation has led to regulatory inefficiency, duplication of effort, and higher compliance costs.

Bank-centric Fed supervision has also been a poor fit for companies that are primarily in the insurance business and has not been consistent with the actual risks posed by ISLHCs. All of this cost and complexity eventually impact consumers through higher prices and reduced access to services.

I should also point out that the burden of duplicative supervision has encouraged a significant number of these insurance companies to get rid of their thrift subsidiaries. Today, fewer than half of the insurance savings and loan holding companies that existed when Dodd-Frank was enacted continue to operate under the same model.

H.R. 5059 streamlines regulators' approach to ISLHCs by enacting the following reforms.

If an ISLHC has filed a report with another Federal or State regulator, the Fed will be required to request that report from that regulator first before requesting the information from the company. This prevents compliance staff from being required to respond to duplicative information requests.

H.R. 5059 also requires the Fed to align recordkeeping requirements with those imposed by State insurance authorities to avoid duplication.

The bill also requires that Fed examinations be coordinated, to the fullest extent possible, with State and Federal authorities. Again, this will help to reduce unnecessary duplication and conflict.

The bill further requires the Fed to craft a supervisory framework that appropriately tailors the supervision of ISLHCs. It then requires a review of existing supervisory guidance to ensure that it is consistent with the new framework.

All of these reforms will provide greater regulatory clarity and efficiency, and reduce unnecessary compliance burden. In doing so, we can ensure that these companies can continue to serve their customers without sacrificing the safety and soundness of our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5059, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5059, the State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act. H.R. 5059 is a bipartisan piece of legislation that seeks to ensure that Federal regulation over the insurance industry is not unnecessarily duplicative or overly burdensome.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking my colleague from the other side of the aisle, Mr. ROTHFUS, for working on this bill with me, as well as the chairman of our committee, Congressman HENSARLING, and Ranking Member WATERS for understanding the issue we are trying to solve and lending their support.

This bill came a long way from when it was introduced earlier this year, and it reflects input from members of the Financial Services Committee, industry stakeholders, and Federal regulators. This bill simply seeks to right-size regulation placed on insurance savings and loan holding companies compared to the risk they pose to financial stability.

Insurance savings and loan holding companies are insurance companies that own their own bank. In most instances, these types of banks represent a small percentage of their insurance parent company's overall bottom line, but due to the ownership by the company, they are subject to Federal regulation by the Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

When we held a legislative hearing on this bill in March, one of the witnesses testified that, while their insurance company's bank assets made up only 0.2 percent of the company's total assets, the regulation by the Federal Reserve consumed 25 percent of the company's compliance costs, ultimately forcing the company to close their bank.

This is but one example, Mr. Speaker, of the uneven regulation these companies are facing. This costly and out-of-sync duplicative regulation of these insurance savings and loan holding companies is not working as effectively as it should, and this bill seeks to harmonize some of these duplications.

There is no reason why a smaller insurance company, like Ohio-based Westfield Insurance, should face more regulation than some of the largest insurance companies in the country due to the fact that they simply own a small bank, or why a company like Nationwide Insurance, a company based in my district, the Third Congressional District of Ohio, which has \$236 billion

in assets and a \$7 billion bank, should be treated by the Federal Reserve like a \$243 billion bank holding company.

This is not fair. The regulation of the business of insurance is different from the regulation of banks, and the Federal Reserve's supervisory framework must reflect, I believe, this important difference.

The Federal Reserve has historically never regulated insurance until recently, within the past 10 years, Mr. Speaker, when Congress transferred the regulatory authority over these companies to the Fed. By contrast, our State insurance regulators have regulated this country's insurance system for nearly 150 years.

While the Federal Reserve has said that they are looking to tailor some of their regulations, there is little evidence to support those assertions, and time is simply running out. Since we transferred this authority to the Federal Reserve in 2010, nearly two-thirds of existing insurance savings and loan holding companies have closed their banks.

We need better coordination and cooperation between our State insurance regulators and Federal regulators to ensure our insurance regulatory regime is not unnecessarily duplicative or overly burdensome.

This bill will seek to accomplish both of these things. Talk about a win-win, Mr. Speaker. I believe this is it.

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the chairman of the House Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), who is vice chair of the House Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee, and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for their work on this legislation.

For years, the Federal Government has slowly expanded its jurisdiction in a number of areas. From healthcare to education, the Federal Government's presence has grown larger and larger. This bill attempts to restore regulatory balance and ensure that the proper authority—in this instance, the State insurance commissioners—can continue to do the job they have done well for more than 100 years.

In a pre-Dodd-Frank world, there were more than 30 insurance savings and loan holding companies that owned insurance depository institutions. Federal Reserve supervision of these institutions has driven insurance companies to close their banks. That list includes Shelter Insurance, headquartered just outside my district in Columbia, Missouri.

In the wake of Dodd-Frank and the dawn of Federal Reserve supervision, Shelter executives said it was simply no longer cost-effective to run a bank.

This was a profitable, well-run bank that served people in the communities I represent that was put out of business by the Federal Government.

Mr. ROTHFUS and Mrs. BEATTY have introduced legislation that would mandate more tailored supervision of insurance holding companies subject to Federal Reserve oversight. The legislation will require the Fed to streamline examination procedures and better coordinate with State insurance regulators.

To be clear, the legislation does not, Mr. Speaker—and I say again, does not—end Federal Reserve supervision. It merely directs the Fed to better coordinate with the States and develop standards that are more suitable for insurers, something Congress has asked them to do for years.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania and the gentlewoman from Ohio worked together and with the Federal Reserve, both before and after the markup, to address various concerns. They are both to be commended for their efforts to work across the aisle and with the regulators.

H.R. 5059 is a commonsense solution to Federal overreach and a step toward reduction of bureaucratic redundancy. The bill has received tremendous support, so much that it was agreed to by a voice vote in the Financial Services Committee on July 24.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Mr. ROTHFUS and Mrs. BEATTY for their ongoing leadership and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5059.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would simply like to say, again, thank you to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I want to thank all the members who helped us get this bill to this point and reiterate that this bill does not—does not—remove insurance savings and loan companies from Federal regulation.

Insurance savings and loan holding companies will still be regulated by several Federal Government agencies, including the Federal Reserve. This bill simply seeks to require the Federal Reserve to tailor their bank-centric regulations to the business of insurance and to coordinate supervision and examination of these companies with their State counterparts to avoid unnecessary, duplicative, and overly burdensome regulation.

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BEATTY for working together on this very particular piece of legislation.

Again, this is a right-sized regulation that enjoys strong bipartisan support and sets forth the appropriate framework for regulating insurance savings and loan holding companies in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues vote “yes” on this legislation, H.R. 5059, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5059, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINCEN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6411) to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6411

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 “FinCEN Improvement Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The mission of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is to safeguard the financial system from illicit use and combat money laundering and promote national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial intelligence and strategic use of financial authorities.

(2) In its mission to safeguard the financial system from the abuses of financial crime, including terrorist financing, money laundering and other illicit activity, the United States should prioritize working with partners in Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement authorities.

(3) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has stated that since the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, “The threat landscape has expanded considerably, though it is important to note that the more traditional threat posed by al Qaeda and its affiliates is still present and active. The threat of domestic terrorism also remains persistent overall, with actors crossing the line from First Amendment protected rights to committing crimes to further their political agenda.”

(4) Although the use and trading of virtual currencies are legal practices, some terrorists and criminals, including international criminal organizations, seek to exploit vulnerabilities in the global financial system and are increasingly using emerging payment methods such as virtual currencies to move illicit funds.

(5) In carrying out its mission, FinCEN should prioritize all forms of terrorism and emerging methods of terrorism and illicit finance.

SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING FINCEN.

Section 310 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “appropriate Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies” and inserting “appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies”; and

(B) in clause (vi), by striking “to protect against international terrorism” and inserting “to protect against terrorism”;

(2) in paragraph (E), by striking “appropriate Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement authorities” and inserting “appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement authorities”;

(3) in paragraph (F), by striking “Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement” and inserting “Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement”; and

(4) in paragraph (H), by striking “anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering initiatives, and similar efforts” and inserting “anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering initiatives, including matters involving emerging technologies or value that substitutes for currency, and similar efforts”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROTHFUS. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1545

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

Mr. Speaker, the FinCEN Improvement Act was introduced by Representative ED PERLMUTTER, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance, and cosponsored by Representative STEVE PEARCE, the chairman of this subcommittee.

This would add Tribal law enforcement agencies to those partners with which the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network already works, which includes Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies.

The bill would clarify that FinCEN should protect against all forms of terrorism. FinCEN currently supports law enforcement on domestic issues, not just international, and this legislation would clarify that current practice. This bill would add an emphasis on emerging technologies or value that substitutes for currency in order to address the growing exploitation of digital currencies to move illicit funds.

The financial technology, virtual currency, and electronic payments landscape is rapidly evolving to include means of storing and transferring value that didn't exist when previous laws and regulations were written. This bill emphasizes that FinCEN ought to prioritize cryptocurrencies to ensure that criminals and terrorists cannot use these technologies to carry out illicit financial activities.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my friend, Mr. ROTHFUS, for bringing this bill up today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of legislation I introduced with my colleague from New Mexico, STEVE PEARCE. H.R. 6411, the FinCEN Improvement Act, is a straightforward bill which will modernize the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, otherwise known as FinCEN.

The mission of FinCEN is to safeguard the financial system from crimes or illicit use, combat money laundering, and promote national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial information and intelligence.

In order to accomplish its mission, FinCEN needs to partner with all available law enforcement agencies to gather and share data needed to safeguard the financial system from the abuses of financial crime, including terrorist financing. This legislation builds upon the existing relationships with partners in foreign, Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials by ensuring FinCEN has the authority to work with Tribal law enforcement across the country.

Additionally, FinCEN's current authorizing statute is limited to combating international terrorism, which leaves out domestic terrorist activities, which is just as important to protecting our neighborhoods and communities. This legislation fixes that oversight.

Lastly, this legislation ensures FinCEN is focusing on emerging methods of financing illicit activity, including cryptocurrencies. As the ranking Democrat on the Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee, along with Chairman PEARCE, we have held numerous hearings and meetings discussing these new technologies. While they often have tremendous benefit to consumers in connecting the world, the reality is bad actors can benefit from this new technology by shielding their identities or the identities of those they work with. We need to work to understand this potential threat and find new ways to combat it.

This bipartisan piece of legislation is an important step in modernizing FinCEN to ensure our law enforcement and intelligence communities work together to detect and stop criminals and terrorist networks. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. ROTHFUS, and certainly subcommittee Chairman STEVE PEARCE for working with me on this legislation. I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the full committee for their support, and lastly, I thank Katy Strohmaier on the Democratic staff for working with my office to help us draft this legislation.

With that, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation. I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 6411, the FinCEN Improvement Act.

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for his diligent work on this very practical, bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6411.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS RESTORATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3764) to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3764

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MEMBER.**—The term "member" means an individual who is enrolled in the Tribe pursuant to section 6.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **TRIBE.**—The term "Tribe" means the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(b) **EFFECT OF FEDERAL LAWS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, all Federal laws (including regulations) of general application to Indians and Indian tribes, including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act"), shall apply to the Tribe and members.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and each member shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the United States to Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes, without regard to—

(1) the existence of a reservation for the Tribe; or

(2) the location of the residence of any member on or near an Indian reservation.

(b) **SERVICE AREA.**—For purposes of the delivery of services and benefits to members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of Blaine, Cascade, Glacier, and Hill Counties in the State of Montana.

SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act diminishes any right or privilege of the Tribe or any member that existed before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **CLAIMS OF TRIBE.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act alters or affects any legal or equitable claim of the Tribe to enforce any right or privilege reserved by, or granted to, the Tribe that was wrongfully denied to, or taken from, the Tribe before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of receiving recognition, services, and benefits pursuant to this Act, the Tribe shall submit to the Secretary, by not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a membership roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled as a member of the Tribe.

(b) **DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**—The qualifications for inclusion on the membership roll of the Tribe shall be determined in accordance with sections 1 through 3 of article 5 of the constitution of the Tribe dated September 10, 1977 (including amendments to the constitution).

(c) **MAINTENANCE OF ROLL.**—The Tribe shall maintain the membership roll under this section.

SEC. 7. ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) **HOMELAND.**—The Secretary shall acquire, for the benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within the service area of the Tribe to be used for a tribal land base.

(b) **ADDITIONAL LAND.**—The Secretary may acquire additional land for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to section 5 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5108) (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act").

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3764, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act. As the only Member from Montana in the House of Representatives, I am proud to sponsor a bill which would extend Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana.

With Federal recognition, the Little Shell Tribe and its members would become eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Tribes.

The Tribe, as a condition of receiving Federal recognition, services, and benefits, must submit to the Secretary of the Interior a membership roll consisting of the name of each individual member of the Tribe and must maintain such membership roll.

The act directs the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, for the benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within the Tribe's service area to be used for a Tribal land base.

I appreciate the work of Chairman Gray and the Little Shell people for

continuing this fight for recognition. I urge adoption of the measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Federal recognition of Native American Tribes is critical to protecting their Tribal sovereignty and restoring the Tribe's ability to control its land, its water, and its resources, as well as the ability to govern and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its members.

Introduced by Representative GIANFORTE, H.R. 3764 will extend Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana. The Little Shell Tribe has resided in Montana for well over a century and has long been recognized as a Tribe by the State.

The Tribe is a political successor to the signatories of the Pembina Treaty of 1863, under which a large area of land in the State of North Dakota was ceded to the United States. While the Federal Government has federally recognized the two other Tribes that are successors to the signatories of the treaty, the Little Shell have inexplicably been left in limbo.

The Tribe has repeatedly petitioned the Federal Government for Federal recognition—first in the 1930s and '40s under the Indian Reorganization Act, and later, starting in 1978, through the Department of Interior's so-called Part 83 process. However, despite their long and well-documented history, each time they were deprived of their rightful Federal recognition.

H.R. 3764 finally extends recognition to the Little Shell Tribe, making all Federal laws and regulations of general applicability to Indians and Indian Tribes applicable as well to Little Shell and its members.

Federal recognition of the Tribe enjoys broad support in Montana, including support from the Governor's office, the Montana State legislature, the surrounding counties and cities, and from all the other federally recognized Montana tribes. Recognition for the Little Shell is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3764, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WALNUT GROVE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 5923) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain public lands in Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5923

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 "Walnut Grove Land Exchange Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *CHURCH.*—The term "Church" means the Walnut Grove Church in Garland County, Arkansas.

(2) *OFFERED TRACT.*—The term "Offered Tract" means all right, title, and interest of the Church in and to approximately 6.3 acres of non-Federal land identified as "Offered Tract 5742" on the Detail Map of the Walnut Grove Exchange, Ouachita National Forest map (printed date May 11, 2017).

(3) *SECRETARY.*—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) *SELECTED TRACT.*—The term "Selected Tract" means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 4 acres identified as "Selected Tract 5743" on the Detail Map of the Walnut Grove Exchange, Ouachita National Forest map (printed date May 11, 2017), subject to the reservation of a road easement by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND; EQUALIZATION OF VALUE.

(a) *EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.*—Subject to the provisions of this Act, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, if the Church offers to convey the Offered Tract to the United States, the Secretary shall—

(1) convey to the Church all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Selected Tract; and

(2) accept from the Church a conveyance of all right, title, and interest of the Church in and to the Offered Tract.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The exchange under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights;

(2) conditioned on an equalization payment made by the Church in accordance with subsection (c); and

(3) conditioned on the payment of the costs described in subsection (g).

(c) *EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall be for equal value or the values shall be equalized by a cash payment.

(2) *EXCEPTION.*—If the value of the Offered Tract exceeds the Selected Tract, an equalization payment shall not be required.

(d) *APPRAISALS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The value of the land to be exchanged under this Act shall be determined by appraisals conducted by one or more independent and qualified appraisers.

(2) *APPRAISAL STANDARDS.*—The Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the land to be exchanged under this Act in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) *FORMAT.*—Title and valuation to the land to be exchanged under this Act shall be in a format acceptable to the Secretary and the Church.

(f) *MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a map and legal descriptions of all land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) *CORRECTIONS.*—The Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map or in the legal descriptions.

(3) *MAP ON FILE.*—The map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Forest Service.

(g) *COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.*—As a condition of conveyance, any costs related to the conveyance under this section shall be paid by the Church.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, the Walnut Grove Community Church in Jessieville, Arkansas, has sought to gain title to the 4 acres of land on which their church and historic cemetery are located. They have offered 6 acres of land within the Ouachita National Forest to the U.S. Forest Service in exchange. The cemetery and congregation both predate the Forest Service.

Since 1938, the church has operated under special-use permits and has had to renew its permit annually since 2002. This situation has left the congregation uncertain about their future on the land they have worshipped on for decades.

Furthermore, like any structure built 80 years ago, the church requires maintenance. Unfortunately, its operation under a permit limits the congregation's ability to maintain and improve their church building.

Congressman WESTERMAN has introduced a commonsense land exchange that will greatly benefit the community of Jessieville at no cost to the American taxpayer. He should be commended for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes a long overdue land exchange between the Forest Service and the Walnut Grove Church in Garland County, Arkansas. The church was built on Forest Service land, and the exchange will simplify ownership claims and facilitate access and improvements to the property.

The land exchange authorized by this bill includes commonsense safeguards that ensure fair compensation for the value of public lands, and I am happy to support its adoption and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts for her support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Walnut Grove Land Exchange Act should not need to exist. It is a simple bill which swaps 4 acres of public property, which currently houses a community, cemetery, and church with 6 acres of private timberland. And as was mentioned, this church and cemetery was established decades before the Forest Service.

To those who hear this and think, 10 acres? Why on Earth would it take an act of Congress to exchange a total of 10 acres? Rest assured that I had the same initial reaction. Not that this bill or the church itself are unimportant. On the contrary, the Walnut County Community Church is vital to the rural residents of Garland County.

The church is not only a place of worship. It has held countless community meetings and more. Its cemetery is the final resting place for many of Garland County's servicemen and -women, and the church itself has served as a search-and-rescue command post in the past.

However, under the current law, the church does not own the land on which it worships or buries its dead. As such, the Forest Service has the authority to raise the church's use fee each year and has done so over the past decade. Worse yet, any improvement or restoration to the church must be done with the explicit permission of the Federal Government. As a result, the Walnut Grove congregation has not been able to modify or upgrade their 80-year-old building, despite the need to expand to match the growing demands of the community.

Members of the congregation have tried for decades to resolve this issue with the Forest Service. They have called, written, and petitioned both the local and regional offices to purchase or exchange the land. They have willingly taken on maintenance of the property and have graciously accepted higher and higher usage fees under the guise that an exchange was coming. An exchange never came.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we stop this 20-year merry-go-round. This bill is vitally important to this congregation, and it is past time that we help them resolve their issue.

My bill has wide bipartisan and bicameral support, having passed the committee unanimously and having a companion measure in the Senate. I urge swift passage of this bill.

□ 1600

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5923, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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.

RURAL BROADBAND PERMITTING EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4824) to allow certain State permitting authority to encourage expansion of broadband service to rural communities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4824

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 "Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BROADBAND PROJECT.**—The term "broadband project" means an installation by a broadband provider of wireless or broadband infrastructure, including but not limited to, copper lines, fiber optic lines, communications towers, buildings, or other improvements on Federal land.

(2) **BROADBAND PROVIDER.**—The term "broadband provider" means a provider of wireless or broadband infrastructure that enables a user to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video telecommunications.

(3) **INDIAN LANDS.**—The term "Indian Lands" means—

(A) any land owned by an Indian Tribe, located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancharia; or

(B) any land located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancharia, the title to which is held—

(i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;

(ii) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

(iii) by a dependent Indian community.

(4) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term "Indian Tribe" means a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(5) **OPERATIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY.**—The term "operational right-of-way" means all real property interests (including easements) acquired for the construction or operation of a project, including the locations of the roadway, bridges, interchanges, culverts, drainage, clear zone, traffic control signage, landscaping, copper and fiber optic lines, utility shelters, and broadband infrastructure as installed by broadband providers, and any rest areas with direct access to a controlled access highway or the National Highway System.

(6) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land managed by the Department of the Interior (including land held in trust for an Indian Tribe).

SEC. 3. STATE OR TRIBAL PERMITTING AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary concerned shall establish (or in the case where both Department of the Interior and National Forest System land would be affected, shall jointly establish) a voluntary program under which any State or Indian Tribe may offer, and the Secretary concerned may agree, to enter into a memorandum of understanding to allow for the State or Indian Tribe to prepare environmental analyses required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for the permitting of broadband projects within an operational right-of-way on National Forest System land, land managed by the Department of the Interior, and Indian Lands. Under such a memorandum of understanding, an Indian Tribe or State may volunteer to cooperate with the signatories to the memorandum in the preparation of the analyses required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(b) **ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In entering into a memorandum of understanding under this section, the Secretary concerned may assign to the State or Indian Tribe, and the State or Indian Tribe may agree to assume, all or part of the responsibilities of the Secretary concerned for environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) **STATE OR INDIAN TRIBE RESPONSIBILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State or Indian Tribe that assumes any responsibility under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the same procedural and substantive requirements as would apply if the responsibility were carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(B) **EFFECT OF ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.**—A State or Indian Tribe that assumes any responsibility, including financial responsibility, under paragraph (1) shall be solely responsible and solely liable for carrying out, in lieu of the Secretary concerned, the responsibilities assumed under that paragraph until the date on which the program is terminated under subsection (g).

(C) **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**—A State or Indian Tribe that assumes any responsibility under paragraph (1) shall comply with the environmental review procedures under parts 1500–1508 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), and the regulations of the Secretary concerned.

(3) **FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY.**—Any responsibility of the Secretary concerned described in paragraph (1) that is not explicitly assumed by the State or Indian Tribe in the memorandum of understanding shall remain the responsibility of the Secretary concerned.

(c) **OFFER AND NOTIFICATION.**—A State or Indian Tribe that intends to offer to enter into a memorandum of understanding under this section shall provide to the Secretary concerned notice of the intent of the State or Indian Tribe not later than 90 days before the date on which the State or Indian Tribe submits a formal written offer to the Secretary concerned.

(d) **TRIBAL CONSULTATION.**—Within 90 days of entering into any memorandum of understanding with a State, the Secretary concerned shall initiate consultation with relevant Indian Tribes.

(e) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—A memorandum of understanding entered into under this section shall—

(1) be executed by the Governor or the Governor's designee, or in the case of an Indian Tribe, by an officer designated by the governing body of the Indian Tribe;

(2) be for a term not to exceed 10 years;

(3) be in such form as the Secretary concerned may prescribe;

(4) provide that the State or Indian Tribe—

(A) agrees to assume all or part of the responsibilities of the Secretary concerned described in subsection (b)(1);

(B) expressly consents, including through the adoption of express waivers of sovereign immunity, on behalf of the State or Indian Tribe, to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts for the compliance, discharge, and enforcement of any responsibility of the Secretary concerned assumed by the State or Indian Tribe;

(C) certify that State laws and regulations, with respect to States, or Tribal laws and regulations, with respect to Indian Tribes, are in effect that—

(i) authorize the State or Indian Tribe to take the actions necessary to carry out the responsibilities being assumed; and

(ii) are comparable to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, including providing that any decision regarding the public availability of a document under the State laws is reviewable by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(D) agrees to maintain the financial resources necessary to carry out the responsibilities being assumed;

(E) agrees to provide to the Secretary concerned any information the Secretary concerned considers necessary to ensure that the State or Indian Tribe is adequately carrying out the responsibilities assigned to and assumed by the State or Indian Tribe;

(F) agrees to return revenues generated from the use of public lands authorized under this section to the United States annually, in accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(G) agrees to send a copy of all authorizing documents to the United States for proper notation and recordkeeping;

(5) prioritize and expedite any analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) under the memorandum of understanding;

(6) not be granted to a State on Indian Lands without the consent of the relevant Indian Tribe; and

(7) not be granted to an Indian Tribe on State lands without the consent of the relevant State.

(f) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section permits a State or Indian Tribe to assume—

(1) any rulemaking authority of the Secretary concerned under any Federal law; and

(2) Federal Government responsibilities for government-to-government consultation with Indian Tribes.

(g) TERMINATION.—

(1) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary concerned may terminate the participation of any State or Indian Tribe in the program established under this section if—

(A) the Secretary concerned determines that the State or Indian Tribe is not adequately carrying out the responsibilities assigned to and assumed by the State or Indian Tribe;

(B) the Secretary concerned provides to the State or Indian Tribe—

(i) notification of the determination of noncompliance; and

(ii) a period of at least 30 days during which to take such corrective action as the Secretary concerned determines is necessary

to comply with the applicable agreement; and

(C) the State or Indian Tribe, after the notification and period provided under subparagraph (B), fails to take satisfactory corrective action, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

(2) TERMINATION BY THE STATE OR INDIAN TRIBE.—A State or Indian Tribe may terminate the participation of the State or Indian Tribe in the program established under this section at any time by providing to the Secretary concerned a notice of intent to terminate by not later than the date that is 90 days before the date of termination.

(3) TERMINATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH STATE OR INDIAN TRIBE.—A State or an Indian Tribe may terminate a joint memorandum of understanding under this section at any time by providing to the Secretary concerned a notice of intent to terminate by no later than the date that is 90 days before the date of termination.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL BROADBAND PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a broadband permit streamlining team comprised of qualified staff under subsection (b)(4) in each State or regional office that has been delegated responsibility for issuing permits for broadband projects.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned, in consultation with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Tribal Historic Preservation Officers Association, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to carry out this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture or of the Interior, as appropriate;

(B) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(C) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1) is to coordinate and expedite permitting decisions for broadband projects.

(3) STATE OR TRIBAL PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary concerned may request that the Governor of any State or the officer designated by the governing body of the Indian Tribe with one or more broadband projects be a party to the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1).

(4) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of entrance into the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the head of each Federal agency that is a party to the memorandum of understanding (other than the Secretary concerned) may, if the head of the Federal agency determines it to be appropriate, designate to each State or regional office an employee of that Federal agency with expertise in regulatory issues relating to that Federal agency, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(i) planning under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) and planning under the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(iii) consultation and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536).

(B) DUTIES.—Each employee designated under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be responsible for any issue relating to any broadband project within the jurisdiction of the State or regional office under the

authority of the Federal agency from which the employee is assigned;

(ii) participate as part of the team of personnel working on one or more proposed broadband projects, including planning and environmental analyses; and

(iii) serve as the designated point of contact with any applicable State or Indian Tribe that assumes any responsibility under section 3(b)(1) relating to any issue described in clause (i).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4824, introduced by JOHN CURTIS of Utah, is the Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018. The bill, which I have cosponsored, provides much-needed efficiency to the broadband permitting process on Federal lands to ensure underserved communities receive this vital utility.

Approximately 40 percent of rural Americans do not have access to broadband internet. Without adequate and consistent internet access, people are unable to effectively communicate, gain access to vital information services, and increasingly participate in the American workforce.

Currently, providers who wish to install broadband infrastructure in existing utility and road rights-of-way on Federal land are frequently required to obtain approval from multiple Federal and State agencies. If the infrastructure crosses Indian Country, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is involved. This cumbersome process also includes extensive environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act.

H.R. 4824 streamlines broadband permitting in existing rights-of-way, saving time and money in broadband deployment. Specifically, this bill authorizes a program to enhance the permitting process for broadband internet projects in each of the Bureau of Land Management's State offices.

H.R. 4824 also authorizes the Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service to enter into agreements with States and Tribes to allow those entities to carry out environmental reviews for broadband projects within existing rights-of-way on Federal land. This coordinated approach should help alleviate unnecessary delays in permit processing and encourage providers and States to pursue broadband deployment projects, particularly in rural areas.

Congressman CURTIS should be commended for his work on this bill and his efforts to have it considered by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2018.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 4824, the Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018, which was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and additionally referred to your committee. The Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill favorably reported by voice vote on June 6, 2018, and my staff has shared with your staff a draft bill report, a copy of the bill as ordered reported and the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office.

I ask that you allow your committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be quickly scheduled by the Majority Leader. I agree that this discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have your committee be represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the report for the bill and in the Congressional Record during debate on the bill to document our agreement.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to bringing H.R. 4824 to the Floor soon.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 4824, the Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 4824 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

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

Expanding broadband access in rural America and communities adjacent to

public lands is a bipartisan priority on the Natural Resources Committee.

I want to thank Representative CURTIS for working with committee Democrats to improve this bill since it was introduced.

H.R. 4824 gives States the primary responsibility for issuing environmental review permits for broadband projects in those areas that already have rights-of-way for existing infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and trails.

At markup, Representative CURTIS amended the bill to address several concerns brought forward by Native American stakeholders and committee Democrats. This includes guarantees that Tribal governments are consulted and can participate in the development of memoranda of understanding for projects that cross their land. This is a critical improvement.

The bill we are considering today also removes language that would have broadly exempted certain projects from any environmental reviews and eliminated public comment periods.

However, there are still a number of outstanding issues that I hope can be addressed as this bill makes its way through the legislative process in the Senate. For example, I believe that we should continue to perfect language that allows for public comment periods and strengthens the ability of our Federal land management agencies to enforce any MOU that is signed with a State government.

We would also like to continue discussions in order to ensure that everyday citizens receive protection under the Equal Access to Justice Act, a law that ensures all citizens have the ability to participate in government decisionmaking.

I believe these are commonsense changes that won't hamper rural broadband development. I do not oppose passage of the legislation through the House at this time, but I look forward to continued bipartisan and bicameral work on the remaining issues.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering my bill today, H.R. 4824, the Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018.

I want to express my appreciation to Senator ORRIN HATCH, who introduced the bill in the Senate, as well Chairman ROB BISHOP for moving the bill through the Natural Resources Committee.

I would also like to thank various stakeholders that have taken part in the process creating this bill. Additionally, I would like to thank the 12 Members who joined me on this important bill as cosponsors, including my good friend from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE).

The need to give greater access to high-speed broadband services for rural communities is broadly supported, evi-

denced by the diverse coalition of stakeholders supporting my commonsense legislation, including NTCA, WTA, the American Library Association, the Utah Education and Telehealth Network, the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Utah Rural Broadband Association, and the Navajo Nation, to name just a few.

The purpose of my bill is simple: We need to do a better job connecting our rural and remote communities with greater access to broadband and high-speed internet. I believe that increasing access to broadband services in rural areas, like many places in my home State of Utah, is an important first step to help bridge the digital divide and to provide an enhanced quality of life for these areas. This infrastructure is critical to ensure schools, hospitals, libraries, and small businesses have access to modern-day internet speeds. This legislation will provide economic development opportunities for small businesses and residents in our rural towns.

Currently, the permitting process for a broadband project across Federal lands can take many years, in some cases, as much as 8 or 9 years. In my view, this is completely unacceptable. My bill improves and speeds up the permitting process on Federal lands, while also safeguarding and enforcing current-day Federal environmental laws.

I have visited three different Native American Tribes since my election to Congress and have learned some of the unique problems facing these communities. I was proud to work with several Native American Tribes, including the Navajo Nation in my district, to ensure Tribal governments can utilize these new programs established within my bill.

I was touched by a letter of support I received this week from President Begaye, the president of the Navajo Nation. I have visited the Navajo Nation three times since coming to Congress, and I hope this bill passes so that, on my next visit, we can celebrate the passage of this bill together.

My bill is a big win for Americans living in rural communities, especially Utahns, and I encourage my House colleagues to join me in voting in support of H.R. 4824. I hope the Senate will also quickly take up this measure and send it to the President's desk.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4824, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to allow certain

State and tribal permitting authority to encourage expansion of broadband service to rural and tribal communities, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MODERNIZING THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUND FOR TOMORROW'S NEEDS ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2591) to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2591

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 “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The first section of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669) is amended by adding at the end the following: “One of the purposes of this Act is to provide financial and technical assistance to the States for the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting.”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) for the purposes of determining the number of paid hunting-license holders in a State, the term ‘fiscal year’ means the fiscal year or license year of the State;

“(3) the term ‘hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment’ means any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters, including by—

“(A) using social media, marketing, advertising, surveying, television spots, print, and media;

“(B) providing education, mentoring, and field demonstrations;

“(C) enhancing access for hunting and recreational shooting, including through range construction;

“(D) providing education to the public about the role of hunting and recreational shooting in funding wildlife conservation; and

“(E) using any other means to ensure the growth of hunting and recreational shooting, as determined by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 4. ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.

(a) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary of the Interior” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “Such apportionments” and inserting the following:

“(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The apportionments under paragraph (1)”;

(3) by striking the third sentence; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), amounts apportioned under this subsection

may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.

“(B) LIMITATION.—A State may make an expenditure under subparagraph (A) only if the amount of the expenditure during the fiscal year in which the expenditure is made plus the amount of the expenditures for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment made during the 4 fiscal years preceding that fiscal year is not greater than 25 percent of the total amount apportioned to the State under this subsection during that 5-fiscal-year period.”.

(b) APPORTIONMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES.—The first subsection (c) of section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

(1) by inserting “APPORTIONMENT OF REVENUES FROM PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, BOWS, AND ARROWS.—” after the enumerator;

(2) by striking “One-half” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), 1/2”;

(3) by striking “: Provided, That” and inserting a period;

(4) by striking “each State shall be apportioned not more than 3 per centum and not less than 1 per centum of such revenues” and inserting the following:

“(2) CONDITION.—The amount apportioned to each State under paragraph (1) shall be not greater than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent of the revenues described in such paragraph”;

(5) by striking “For the purpose” and inserting the following:

“(3) POPULATION DETERMINATION.—For the purpose”;

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to other uses authorized under this Act, amounts apportioned under this subsection may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.”.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended by redesignating the second subsection (c) and subsection (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

SEC. 5. EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.

Section 8 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by striking “and public relations”;

(2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by striking “, as a part of such program”.

SEC. 6. FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.

Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-1(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) the enhancement of hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment; and”.

SEC. 7. MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 11 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “Not more than” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) AVAILABILITY FOR HUNTER AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTER GRANTS.—Not more than \$5,000,000 of the revenues covered into the fund from any tax imposed under section 4161(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for a fiscal year shall be available to the Secretary exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.”;

(2) in the matter preceding subsection (b)(3)(A), by striking “International”;

(3) in the matter preceding subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by striking “International”;

(4) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”;

(5) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2591, introduced by Representative AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, is a bipartisan bill which I cosponsored that amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding for wildlife conservation.

The Pittman-Robertson fund, which relies on excise tax fees paid by hunters and recreational shooters, has been a driving force for wildlife habitat preservation in the United States for nearly 80 years, contributing over \$10 billion in that time. The fund is also responsible for important hunter education programs, as well as the construction and maintenance of public shooting ranges.

The long-term viability of the Pittman-Robertson fund is at risk, however, because of the diminishing number of hunters and recreational shooters nationwide. Recent surveys have shown a decline of over 2 million hunters since 2011. This has largely been caused by growing urbanization and suburbanization, which has made it more difficult for Americans to participate in these activities.

This legislation will give States additional flexibility to use their Pittman-Robertson dollars to fund programs to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and target shooters. Empowering the States with this added flexibility will help promote safe and responsible hunting and shooting, while also ensuring this American system of wildlife conservation funding remains strong into the future.

Congressman SCOTT should be commended for his work on this bipartisan measure. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides States with increased flexibility to utilize

money provided by the Pittman-Robertson fund for expanding outreach in hunter education initiatives.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, authorizes an excise tax on hunting equipment. The proceeds are used to support wildlife conservation and restoration efforts.

Allowing some of the money for education and outreach initiatives has the potential to increase participation in hunting and other recreational activities that will expand the tax base and the total pool of available money.

This program is our Nation's oldest and most successful wildlife conservation initiative. In its over-80-year history, it has restored habitat relied on by numerous species and even helped to bring some populations back from the brink of extinction. This is an impressive track record that the update included in this legislation is meant to support.

The bill includes a 25 percent cap for education and recruitment activities, a safeguard meant to ensure there is still plenty of money available for wildlife conservation and restoration.

I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that 25 percent is an appropriate safeguard that doesn't steer too much money away from the traditional purpose of the fund.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2591, Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act.

As a lifelong outdoorsman and current vice chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am honored to be here today to discuss this bipartisan legislation.

If enacted, H.R. 2591 would provide national, broad-based support to State fish and wildlife agencies to develop, guide, and enhance collective efforts to recruit new hunters and sportsmen, all while continuing to protect our Nation's natural resources.

Through a system of user pay, public benefits, Pittman-Robertson is the foundation of wildlife conservation funding in the United States.

In the early 1900s, many wildlife species were beginning to dwindle and disappear. To address this decline, State fish and wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with hunters and conservationists to help draft and enact the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. Known today as the Pittman-Robertson Act, this legislation became law in 1937.

Since it was first enacted, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Fund has collected over \$11 billion from sportsmen and -women to be used by States to fund wildlife conservation efforts, habitat acquisition and man-

agement, public access to lands, hunter education, and development of ranges affiliated with hunter safety programs. These funds are collected from an excise tax on sporting equipment, which is coupled with State funds from the sale of sporting licenses.

Over the past century, States have spent these funds to restore game and nongame species that were on the brink of endangerment and extinction. Specifically, Pittman-Robertson funds have helped rebuild white-tailed deer, turkey, duck, beaver, elk, osprey, and bald eagle populations. Effectively, Pittman-Robertson creates a direct link between those who hunt and participate in sportsmen activities and the health of the resources needed to expand and enhance those opportunities.

However, in recent years, the increasing urbanization and suburbanization of our population has made it more difficult for the public to participate in hunting and outdoor recreational activities.

□ 1615

Correspondingly, the average age of Americans purchasing hunting licenses and equipment is steadily rising as younger Americans are not joining the sportsmen population.

This has a significant ripple effect, not only on the key Federal funding models that support the conservation of fish and wildlife, but also on the base of support for our public lands and on thoughtful natural resource policy.

H.R. 2591 seeks to address this growing issue head-on.

Without any Federal mandate or any increase in existing user fees or taxes, H.R. 2591 will preserve the current user-pay, public-benefit funding of wildlife conservation for generations to come, while further expanding flexibility of States to make decisions that are best fit for them and the preservation of their natural resources.

Specifically, H.R. 2591 would clarify that a purpose of the Pittman-Robertson funds is to extend public relations assistance to the States for the promotion of hunting and sportsmen activities.

For the first time, State fish and wildlife agencies could use Pittman-Robertson funds for proactive recruitment, including promotions on television, in printed publications, and on social media; educational field demonstrations to better teach the role that hunting plays in wildlife conservation; as well as initiatives aimed at enhancing access for hunting and range construction.

These modernizations are essential in addressing the issues currently affecting Pittman-Robertson funds.

To ensure that traditional wildlife conservation remains the primary focus of Pittman-Robertson, H.R. 2591 puts a maximum cap of 25 percent on the percentage of Pittman-Robertson funds that can be used for public relations by a State agency.

Moreover, H.R. 2591 would expand the Multistate Conservation Grant Pro-

gram by providing an additional \$5 million per year from archery tax collections to provide for hunters and recreational recruitment project grants that promote a national recruitment program.

While this legislation provides the authority for the existing Pittman-Robertson funds to be used on programs that will help ensure participation in outdoor recreational sportsmen activities and secure a funding base long into the future, it is important to note that H.R. 2591 does not mandate how PR funds must be spent.

The discretion to determine the amount, if any, of Wildlife Restoration Funds spent on recruitment would remain entirely with each individual State fish and wildlife agency.

Conservation organizations and State wildlife agencies alike have long advocated for increased flexibility for Pittman-Robertson funds.

H.R. 2591 is supported by all 50 State fish and wildlife agencies as well as a significant number of the Nation's leading sportsmen conservation groups—just to list a few: the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Archery Trade Association, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Conservation Force, Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, Mule Deer Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Sportsmen's Alliance, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Council, Wildlife Forever, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2591, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STIGLER ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2606) to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2606

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 "Stigler Act Amendments of 2018".

SEC. 2. IN GENERAL.

The first section of the Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 731, chapter 458), is amended—

(1) in the matter before subsection (a), by striking “That all restrictions” and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1. (a) All restrictions against alienation, conveyance, lease, mortgage, creation of liens, or other encumbrances upon all lands, including oil and gas or other mineral interests, in Oklahoma belonging to a lineal descendant by blood of an original enrollee whose name appears on the Final Indian Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory, whether acquired by allotment, inheritance, devise, gift, purchase, exchange, partition, partition sale, or by purchase with restricted funds, of whatever degree of Indian blood, and whether enrolled or unenrolled, shall be and are hereby, extended until an Act of Congress determines otherwise.

“(b) The extension of restrictions described in subsection (a) shall include without limitation, those interests in the estate of a decedent Indian who died before the date of enactment of the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018—

“(1) if such interests were acquired by an heir or devisee of one-half or more degree of Indian blood, as computed from the nearest enrolled lineal ancestors of Indian blood enrolled on the Final Rolls described in subsection (a), by final order issued by an Oklahoma district court or a United States district court determining the decedent’s heirs or devisees or otherwise determining the ownership of said interests before said date; or

“(2) if such interests were, immediately prior to the decedent’s death, subject to restrictions and had not, as of said date, been—

“(A) the subject of a final order issued by an Oklahoma district court or a United States district court determining the decedent’s heirs or devisees or otherwise determining the ownership of said interests;

“(B) conveyed by the decedent’s undetermined heirs or devisees by deed approved by an Oklahoma district court; or

“(C) conveyed by the decedent’s undetermined heirs or devisees of less than one-half degree of Indian blood with or without Oklahoma district court approval.

“SEC. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (f), subsection (g), subsection (h), and subsection (i), no conveyance, including an oil and gas or mineral lease, of any interest in the restricted lands described in this section shall be valid unless approved in open court by the district court of the county in Oklahoma in which the land is situated;”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “county judge” and inserting “district judge”; and

(B) by striking “Proceedings for approval of conveyances by restricted heirs or devisees” and inserting “Proceedings for approval of conveyances”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “best interest of the Indian” and inserting “best interest of the grantor”; and

(4) by adding before the period at the end the following: “; (h) nothing contained in this section shall limit or affect the right of an Indian owner of restricted lands described in this Act to seek and obtain Secretarial removal of restrictions on all or any portion of said restricted lands in accordance with any applicable Federal law; (i) nothing contained in this section shall invalidate the alienation, conveyance, lease, including oil and gas or other mineral leases, mortgage, creation of liens, or other encumbrance of any lands, if such action was effective before the date of enactment of the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018 and valid under the law then in effect; and (j) in determining the quantum of Indian blood of any Indian heir or devisee, the Final Indian Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory as to such heir or devisee, if enrolled, shall be conclusive of his

or her quantum of Indian blood. If unenrolled, his or her degree of Indian blood shall be computed from the nearest enrolled lineal ancestors of Indian blood enrolled on the Final Indian Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 731, chapter 458), is amended—

(1) in section 5, by striking “of one-half or more Indian blood,”;

(2) in section 6(c)—

(A) by inserting “purchase, partition sale,” after “gift,” each place it appears; and

(B) by striking “of one-half or more Indian blood”; and

(3) in section 8, by striking “of one-half or more Indian blood.”.

SEC. 4. REPEALS.

The following are repealed:

(1) The first section of the Act of August 11, 1955 (69 Stat. 666, chapter 768).

(2) Section 2 of the Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 731, chapter 458).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2606, the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018.

The bill would amend the 1947 Stigler Act to remove the Indian blood quantum requirement for certain land to be maintained in restricted fee status for any member of the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, and the Seminole Nation, which are collectively known as the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma.

Under current law, when a person of less than one-half degree Indian blood from one of the Five Tribes inherits an interest of an allotment of land, the land can be taxed and be conveyed without approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Under H.R. 2606, restricted fee land currently owned by members of the Five Tribes would remain in restricted status regardless of the blood quantum of the owners.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for his tireless work on issues impacting Indian Country, including this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, like other Native American tribes, the land base of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma was devastated during the allotment and assimilation period of the late 1800s. During this period, tribal governments were dissolved and community-held lands were distributed as 160-acre parcels to individual tribal members. The remaining lands were made available for non-Indian settlement.

Congress eventually reversed its policy and, in 1936, enacted the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in order to rebuild Indian tribal societies and rightfully return land back to the tribes.

Under that act, any previously allotted Indian land remained with its current owner in restricted fee status. This status has significant benefits, as restricted fee lands are under tribal jurisdiction and are exempt from certain Federal and State taxes.

However, in 1947, additional and arbitrary constraints were placed upon the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The enactment of this 1947 law, known as the Stigler Act, set a minimum blood quantum level that must be met by an Indian landowner in order for the lands to remain in restricted fee status. That is to say, if the total percentage of Indian blood of a landowner falls below a certain minimum threshold, the land loses its tax-exempt status.

Over the years, with subsequent generations and intermarriage, landowners often no longer meet the minimum blood quantum level. The lands then lose their restricted fee status and often are sold off.

This has resulted in a drastic reduction of all the lands owned by members of the Five Civilized Tribes.

No other Native American Tribe is required to meet this blood quantum minimum in order to preserve their land fee status, and it seems that this was the main intent of the Stigler Act in 1947, to further reduce Indian land holdings in Oklahoma.

Under the changes proposed in H.R. 2606, we can right this wrong.

Enactment of this legislation will ensure that restricted fee land owned by citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes will remain in that status regardless of blood quantum levels. This will bring parity to the Five Civilized Tribes and allow their citizens to own restricted fee land just like the citizens of other tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2606 and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentleman from Montana for yielding, and I want to thank him for moving this legislation through his committee and onto the floor.

I rise in support, Mr. Speaker, of H.R. 2606, the Stigler Act Amendments of

2018, and on behalf of the citizens of the Cherokee Nation; my own tribe, the Chickasaw Nation; the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; the Muscogee Creek Nation; and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, commonly known as the Five Civilized Tribes.

The bill before us only addresses and affects these Five Tribes and the lands owned by their citizens within the State of Oklahoma. The passage of this legislation is critical to maintaining the inherited land of the citizens of the five aforementioned tribes.

The infamous Dawes Act of 1887 authorized the Federal Government to survey tribal lands and divide them into allotted parcels for individual Native Americans. Title to these allotment parcels was set forth in the Stigler Act of 1947.

The Stigler Act provided that, upon probate, if the heirs and devisees of an original allottee from the Five Tribes had passed out of one-half Native American blood quantum, the allotment loses its restricted fee status.

Restricted land is not subject to State taxation, and Federal law does not dictate a minimum Native American blood degree requirement to any other tribe.

The original Stigler Act itself was an egregious violation of tribal sovereignty and previous agreements between the Five Civilized Tribes and the government. The provisions of the Dawes Act that protected individual Native allottees, frankly, were effectively neutered by the passage of the Stigler Act.

This legislation seeks to amend the original Stigler Act and remove the one-half degree requirement of Native American blood. In doing so, it would provide the opportunity for heirs and devisees to take title to the land and allow the parcel to maintain its restricted status.

This legislation will also create parity in Federal law in the treatment of Native American allotted land by removing the minimum blood degree requirement, which only applies to the citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes.

As Native Americans, we take great pride in our heritage and the land that our ancestors maintained before us. The Stigler Act would allow Natives to pass on their restricted land to future generations who may not meet the one-half degree blood requirement. Many of Oklahoma's citizens have passed out of the one-half blood lineage but remain vested in their Native American heritage and citizens of their respective tribal governments.

This bill will help preserve the rights and legacy of Native American tribes and their inheritance in the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 2606 to remove this outdated and discriminatory law and to preserve what Native American land is left in Oklahoma's Indian Country.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my friend for moving this through the

committee. Also, obviously, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. BISHOP, for his help in this matter.

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

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2606, the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018.

This legislation would end a discriminatory blood quantum requirement for members of the Five Civilized Tribes: the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muskogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

The Stigler Act of 1947 mandated that restricted land owned by a member of the Five Tribes must have 1/2 blood quantum in order for it to remain restricted. If the land is handed down to a relative with less than 1/2 blood quantum, the land is no longer restricted.

No other Native American tribe in the United States is subject to the Stigler Act, and in no other tribe in the United States do the lands of tribal citizens lose their restricted status due to the blood quantum of an individual Native American.

H.R. 2606 would do away with the blood quantum requirement so restricted fee land owned by citizens of the Five Tribes could remain restricted, regardless of blood quantum. By removing the blood quantum requirements in the Stigler Act, native land could remain within families and heirs despite individual Native American landowners falling below 1/2 blood quantum.

Tribes are sovereign nations and H.R. 2606 would treat them as such. This bill would create parity in federal law so that the government would not be able to unfairly dictate a minimum blood quantum requirement for certain tribes.

It would also bring equality to members of the Five Tribes. For decades, their members have lived under a law so that applied to only their lands.

As Native Americans, we take great pride in our heritage and the land that our ancestors maintained before us. The Stigler Act Amendments of 2018 would allow Natives to pass on their restricted land to future generations who may not meet the 1/2 blood degree requirement.

Members of the Five Tribes who seek to carry on their ancestors' heritage should be able to and this legislation ensures that members of the Five Tribes can continue to preserve restricted status of their land and reap all of the benefits that come along with it.

The Five Tribes held more than 15 million acres of restricted land a century ago. Today, they hold just 380,000 acres.

While H.R. 2606 will not reverse 70 years of land loss, it will certainly help prevent additional tribal land from falling out of restricted status.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018 and am honored to speak in support of the legislation before the United States House of Representatives today. I urge its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2606, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

9/11 MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6287) to provide competitive grants for the operation, security, and maintenance of certain memorials to victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6287

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 "9/11 Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED MEMORIAL.—The term "covered memorial" means a memorial located in the United States established to commemorate the events of, and honor the victims of, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, at the site of the attacks.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means the official organization, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) the focus of which is the operations and preservation of a covered memorial; and

(B) which is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR COVERED MEMORIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall award to eligible entities competitive grants of varying amounts, as determined by the Secretary, to be used by the eligible entity solely for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) PURPOSES.—A grant awarded under subsection (a) shall be used by an eligible entity for the operation, security, and maintenance of a covered memorial.

(c) DEADLINE FOR AWARD.—If the Secretary, after review of an application from an eligible entity, determines to award a grant to the eligible entity, the Secretary shall award the grant not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of the completed application.

(d) AVAILABILITY.—Grant funds made available under this section shall remain available until expended.

(e) CRITERIA.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give greatest weight in the selection of eligible entities using the following criteria:

(1) The needs of the eligible entity, and ability and commitment of the eligible entity to use grant funds, with respect to ensuring the security and safety of visitors of the covered memorial.

(2) The ability of the eligible entity to match the amount of the grant, on at least a 1-to-1 basis, with non-Federal assets from non-Federal sources, including cash or durable goods and materials fairly valued, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) The greatest number of visitors that would benefit.

(4) The ability and commitment of an eligible entity to use grant funds—

(A) to preserve the grounds at the covered memorial; and

(B) to educate future generations.

(5) The ability and commitment of an eligible entity to use grant funds to increase the numbers of economically disadvantaged visitors to the covered memorial.

(f) LIMITATION.—No grant shall be awarded under this section—

(1) for use at a covered memorial that does not provide for—

(A) free admission to all facilities and museums associated with the covered memorial for active and retired members of the military, registered first responders to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and family members of victims of the attacks of September 11, 2001; and

(B) dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week; or

(2) to an eligible entity that does not allow for annual Federal audits of the financial statements of the eligible entity, including revenues associated with ticket sales, charitable donations, grants, and all expenditures on salaries and operations, which shall be subject to review by the Secretary and made available to the public.

(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each calendar year for which an eligible entity obligates or expends any amounts made available under a grant under this section, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) specifies the amount of grant funds obligated or expended for the preceding fiscal year;

(2) specifies any purposes for which the funds were obligated or expended; and

(3) includes any other information that the Secretary may require to more effectively administer the grant program under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6287, offered by Congressman TOM MACARTHUR of New Jersey, honors and memorializes the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants through a competitive process to nonprofit organizations for the operation and maintenance of memorials to commemorate the events and honor the victims of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

It has been 17 years since that dark day in American history. The National

September 11th Memorial in New York City, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial just across the Potomac River in Virginia, and the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, stand as solemn tributes and remembrances to the thousands of victims of those attacks.

H.R. 6287 authorizes a competitive grant program for operation, security, and maintenance of these memorials.

Throughout our Nation's history, Congress has stepped forward to authorize operating funds in public-private partnership with nongovernmental organizations for memorials and museums of national significance. Like congressional authorizations of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Kennedy Center, a Federal authorization for grants in support of 9/11 memorials at the sites of the attacks will help to operate and maintain these sites of national remembrance and reflection.

We should always remember and forever honor those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Representative MACARTHUR for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 17 years ago, two planes crashed into the World Trade Center in my district, killing thousands of people. A third plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth plane, likely destined for the very Capitol complex in which we now stand, was brought down by a group of courageous passengers in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As I do today, I represented Ground Zero on September 11, 2001. I was at the World Trade Center 4 hours after the towers fell. The scene was horrible: fire, smoke, debris, human remains, and twisted metal created an apocalyptic scene. Dust and debris filled the air, but even in that moment of deep despair and overwhelming horror, I saw signs of hope.

Firefighters, police, and emergency medical technicians traveled to Lower Manhattan from around the country. Steel workers, construction workers, and hundreds of other men and women rushed to the pile to help. As the last fires were extinguished, 99 days after the attack, and the last pieces of metal were removed from Ground Zero, those feelings of hope, perseverance, and solidarity remained.

In the years since the attacks, I have been grateful and inspired by how Congress has come together to help rebuild New York, and I have worked with my

colleagues to support the responders, survivors, and families of the victims.

In 2010, Congress passed, and in 2015 reauthorized, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. More than 88,000 9/11 responders and survivors have enrolled in the program to receive healthcare and support for 9/11-related illnesses. The law has also provided over \$4.3 billion in compensation to responders and survivors through the Victim Compensation Fund, a program that Congress will have to reauthorize in the coming years.

In addition to making our responders and survivors whole, Congress invested millions of dollars to help rebuild Lower Manhattan. One World Trade Center now fills the hole left in our skyline when the towers fell, and businesses shattered after the attack are reopened and thriving. In what was once the shadow of the towers, there now stands a comprehensive museum dedicated to sharing stories of September 11th and the bravery of those who risked everything to protect their fellow Americans that day.

In place of the smoking hole I saw day after day in Lower Manhattan, there now sits a somber and inspiring memorial. It is a site of remembrance and hope; a place for every American to come and reflect on what happened that September morning, and to renew our promise, never to forget the events of that day.

It is the national memorial for a national tragedy. Similarly, memorials built at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, provide places to remember and reflect, solemn reminders of the tragedy and bravery we saw on September 11th. That is why I am pleased to cosponsor legislation introduced by my colleague from New Jersey which will create a competitive grant program to provide Federal support for security operations and maintenance for 9/11 memorials.

This legislation will help ensure the memorials continue to provide sacred and inspiring spots, accessible to millions of visitors for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan support of the members of the Natural Resources Committee and the House leadership for bringing the bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and to achieve our shared goal of providing a memorial that allows our Nation to mourn, to reflect, and to renew our promises never to forget September 11th.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR).

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Montana for yielding and for his work on the committee. As my colleague from New York has just said, this has been a bipartisan effort, and I appreciate that. It is bipartisan in the Senate, as well.

Seventeen years ago yesterday, our world changed forever. Every one of us

remembers where we were that day. It is getting harder to remember life before 9/11. We have a whole generation that doesn't know what it is like to go to an airport and not take off their shoes, or not sit on board a plane and wonder if somebody is meaning them harm.

I was working in New York City in 2001, right up the block from the Trade Center, and on that terrible, sunny Tuesday when terrorists flew two planes into the New York World Trade Center, we lost nearly 3,000 of our fellow citizens. Like others, I lost people who I knew. Some lost those dearest to them: their husbands, their wives, their mothers and fathers, their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and close friends.

We were also moved that day by stories of heroism, and we all watched as New York's finest and first responders from elsewhere in the region ran toward danger, not away from it.

In the months that followed, I had to take the ferry to New York each morning because the tunnel was closed. And I think it seared on my memory for life the look and the smell of going past Lower Manhattan and seeing the rubble still smoldering and smelling the electrical fires still burning.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years later to the day, on 9/11/2011, the memorial at the World Trade Center opened. It was erected to remember those who fell; to recognize the endurance of the survivors; to honor the bravery of those who risked their lives to save others; and above all, to remember the power of our free Nation to overcome evil with good.

It stands as a reminder to every generation: Never forget. Never falter.

Mr. Speaker, most Americans probably don't know that that memorial was erected with donations from private citizens, and it has continued for 7 years now with donations from private citizens. I commend them for their good work.

But it is now our turn, the United States Congress, to do our part to preserve and protect this hallowed ground, and to answer this national tragedy with national support. I introduced this bill to start a process for providing funding for this memorial and other memorials of what happened on 9/11, and it will provide, ultimately, funding for security, for maintenance, for operations, and still allow those who run the museum there and who have poured their hearts and souls into this, to continue to do that.

I commend the private citizens for doing what they have done, but it is now our solemn duty to not only honor the fallen, but make sure that we protect the living, and that this site is a safe place for people to go and to remember.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the 9/11 Memorial Act. Again, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for coming together to introduce and, hopefully, pass this bill today.

I want to thank my colleague in the Senate, CORY BOOKER, for introducing similar legislation so that we can do our part to honor those who fell.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), my colleague.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Massachusetts for giving me the opportunity to speak on what we all consider a national tragedy, but are trying to do something here that will help us remember those lost on that fateful day.

Yesterday morning, like many of my colleagues, I was back in my district to reflect on the tragic events of September 11, 2001. My district borders on New York City. Across the river, I can see the World Trade Center building from my district office. Every single day thousands of my constituents travel to and from New York City for work.

The 9/11 attacks were deeply personal for New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, as we lost 57 residents from my home county in which I live in Newark, New Jersey, the County of Essex, and we have erected a beautiful memorial in Essex County at Eagle Rock Reservation, which is a mountaintop where you can see over into New York City, where many people ventured to see what had happened on that fateful day.

And so it has become a beautiful memorial there at Eagle Rock Reservation, and it is a pristine, beautiful symbol of never forgetting. The names of all of the people who perished that day are printed on a marble wall that overlooks New York.

H.R. 6287 will ensure that "never again" is more than a slogan. It will help protect memorials in my district and across the country for future generations.

The men and women who lost their lives on 9/11 and in the aftermath of the attacks are American heroes. I am proud to support this bill which will make sure that the memorials to those heroes are preserved for future generations.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), my colleague.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TSONGAS and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for rising in support of this bill.

Yesterday, on September 11th, in small towns and large cities and country fields, Americans paused to remember September 11th. I think there are two goals to each of these ceremonies, including the ones I participated in.

First, is to remember all those who have suffered so much because of the September 11th attacks; and second, is to rededicate ourselves to the promise that is America.

Those who have suffered so much; those who were killed that day; the families that have been affected by it; and all those who responded and

worked on that pile that was so huge. We saw the pictures on the front of the newspaper. I went there the day afterwards. The pile was massive. It looked like little ants, the firefighters and police officers and EMS personnel, that were crawling through the debris—it was so gigantic—and the acrid smell that was there.

And every day we hear about other first responders who are dying of cancer related to 9/11 illnesses. We can never forget those who suffered that day and the people who worked so hard for months after that.

And second, we need to rededicate ourselves to the promise of America that the terrorists tried to take away from us.

This bill is an example of Democrats and Republicans working together to try and commemorate these brave souls. We need to remember that those who have gone off to foreign lands and have died on our behalf, have done so for freedom and democracy.

Freedom and democracy is nothing more than politics and government, and our politics and government have become too small, too petty, and too cynical. These are big issues that are life-and-death issues and we need to raise up the conversation in this country.

This bill is an example of working together to provide money so that people will continue to go to these facilities to remember the suffering that has been visited upon us, and to rededicate ourselves to the promise of America.

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

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

Each year, we take time on this somber anniversary to mourn and remember those lost, and to honor and pay tribute to the extraordinary heroism displayed by firefighters, first responders, and ordinary citizens whose service and sacrifice prevented the loss of life from being even greater, and who continued to serve and protect our communities every day. We express our sincere gratitude to those serving overseas on our behalf.

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center provides our Nation a place of reflection and remembrance, not only for the September 11, 2001, attacks, but for an earlier attack at the World Trade Center in 1993 as well.

I want to thank and commend the 9/11 Memorial Foundation for the work it has done since 2003 to bring the memorial and museum to fruition. This is an impressive and moving site in downtown Manhattan that will educate millions of visitors from all over the world for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative MACARTHUR and Representative NADLER for bringing forward the legislation before us today, which would designate the memorial and museum as a national memorial and provide a grant to the Department of the

Interior for some of the resources needed to interpret the stories of that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6287, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3186) to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3186

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 “Every Kid Outdoors Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND AND WATERS.**—The term “Federal land and waters” means any Federal land or body of water under the jurisdiction of any of the Secretaries to which the public has access.

(2) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the Every Kid Outdoors program established under section 3(a).

(3) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through—

(i) the Director of the National Park Service;

(ii) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(iii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(iv) the Commissioner of Reclamation;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service;

(C) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(D) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(5) **STUDENT OR STUDENTS.**—The term “student” or “students” means any fourth grader or home-schooled learner 10 years of age residing in the United States, including any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 3. EVERY KID OUTDOORS PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretaries shall jointly establish a program, to be known as the “Every Kid Outdoors program”, to provide free

access to Federal land and waters for students and accompanying individuals in accordance with this section.

(b) **ANNUAL PASSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of a student, the Secretaries shall issue a pass to the student, which allows access to Federal lands and waters for which access is subject to an entrance, standard amenity, or day use fee, free of charge for the student and—

(A) in the case of a per-vehicle fee area—

(i) any passengers accompanying the student in a private, noncommercial vehicle; or

(ii) not more than 3 adults accompanying the student on bicycles; or

(B) in the case of a per-person fee area, not more than 3 adults accompanying the student.

(2) **TERM.**—A pass described in paragraph (1) shall be effective during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31 of the following year.

(3) **PRESENCE OF A STUDENT IN GRADE FOUR REQUIRED.**—A pass described in paragraph (1) shall be effective only if the student to which the pass was issued is present at the point of entry to the applicable Federal land or water.

(c) **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the program, the Secretaries—

(1) may collaborate with State Park systems that opt to implement a complementary Every Kid Outdoors State park pass;

(2) may coordinate with the Secretary of Education to implement the program;

(3) shall maintain a publicly available website with information about the program;

(4) may provide visitor services for the program; and

(5) may support approved partners of the Federal land and waters by providing the partners with opportunities to participate in the program.

(d) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with each Secretary, shall prepare a comprehensive report to Congress each year describing—

(1) the implementation of the program;

(2) the number and geographical distribution of students who participated in the program; and

(3) the number of passes described in subsection (b)(1) that were distributed.

(e) **SUNSET.**—The authorities provided in this Act, including the reporting requirement, shall expire on the date that is seven years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The Every Kid in a Park program launched in 2015 as part of the National Park Service’s centennial anniversary to encourage the next generation of park visitors. The program offers fourth graders and their families free entrance to our national parks. To date, Every Kid in a Park has enabled

more than 350,000 fourth graders to use our national parks and public lands as outdoor classrooms. I have personally seen the positive impacts visiting national parks, historic sites, and recreation areas can have on young people in my home State of Montana.

Special places like Glacier National Park, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument will be more accessible to fourth graders from all over the country with the passage of this bill.

H.R. 3186 codifies this program by directing seven agencies to jointly establish the Every Kid Outdoors program to provide any fourth grader in the U.S. with a pass to gain free access to Federal lands and waters. This includes the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for the opportunity to review the relevant provisions of the text of H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, which was favorably reported out of your Committee on May 16, 2018. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 3186 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2018.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 16, 2018, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. This bill was additionally referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction

over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your response and cooperation. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 19, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write concerning H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of H.R. 3186, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate you working with us on the base text of the bill and request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during House Floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to working with the Committee on Natural Resources as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,

Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 16, 2018, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. This bill was additionally referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your response and cooperation. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, which I was proud to introduce with my colleague Representative TIPTON, and Representatives STEFANIK and DEGETTE.

The idea that there should be national public lands that belong to and are managed on behalf of the American people is a value that dates back to the founding of our country and is embedded in our Constitution. Our Nation's public lands protect, celebrate, and give access to the many places that have shaped and defined who we are as Americans.

Places like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Ellis Island, and, in my own district, Minute Man National Historical Park, which commemorates the shot heard 'round the world, and Lowell National Historical Park, the first urban national park of its kind, which commemorates and protects the role that the city played in spawning our country's industrial revolution.

H.R. 3186 provides America's fourth graders and their families free entrance to all of our treasured national parks, historic sites, wildlife refuges, and other federally managed lands and waters, more than 2,000 sites in all. This will encourage a new and more diverse generation to learn about our country's national and historic treasures and fall in love with our public lands and great outdoors.

As documented by the Congressional Budget Office, the legislation codifies an existing program and will, therefore, result in no additional cost to the Federal Government.

In addition to providing free entrance to our public lands, the Every Kid Outdoors Act will also strengthen partnerships between our Federal land management agencies, schools, nonprofits, and private-sector businesses to support outdoor education programming and recreation opportunities for our country's young people.

I have seen the value of these partnerships firsthand and the impact they can have on our young people. In 2015, I had the opportunity, at Minute Man National Historical Park, to present fourth grade students from one of the larger cities in my district with their very own park pass. I will never forget their excitement at this opportunity. For many of them, it was the first time they had ever visited a national park, but I am confident it won't be their last.

I thank Mr. TIPTON for his work with me on this bipartisan legislation and Chairman BISHOP for his support in committee and bringing it to the floor. The Every Kid Outdoors Act will encourage a new and more diverse generation to learn about our country's natural and historic treasures and fall in love with our public lands and great outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3186, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that managers on the part of the House have until midnight on Friday, September 14, 2018, to file conference reports.

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

There was no objection.

RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5532) to redesignate the Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5532

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 "Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Act".

SEC. 2. RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—*The term "historical park" means the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.*

(2) MAP.—*The term "map" means the maps entitled "Reconstruction Era National Monument Old Beaufort Firehouse," numbered 550/135,755 and dated January 2017; "Reconstruction Era National Monument Darrah Hall and Brick Baptist Church," numbered 550/135,756 and dated January 2017; and "Reconstruction Era National Monument Camp Saxton," numbered 550/135,757 and dated January 2017, collectively.*

(3) NETWORK.—*The term "Network" means the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established pursuant to this Act.*

(4) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) REDESIGNATION OF RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL MONUMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*The Reconstruction Era National Monument is redesignated as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, as generally depicted on the map.*

(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—*Any funds available for the purposes of the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be available for the purposes of the historical park.*

(C) REFERENCES.—Any references in a law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be considered to be a reference to the historical park.

(2) BOUNDARY EXPANSION.—

(A) BEAUFORT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire land or interests in land within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District that has historic connection to the Reconstruction Era. Upon finalizing an agreement to acquire land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass the property.

(B) ST. HELENA ISLAND.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire the following and shall expand the boundary of the historical park to include acquisitions under this authority:

(i) Land and interests in land adjacent to the existing boundary on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as reflected on the map.

(ii) Land or interests in land on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, that has a historic connection to the Reconstruction Era.

(C) CAMP SAXTON.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land adjacent to the existing boundary at Camp Saxton, as reflected on the map. Upon finalizing an agreement to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass that Federal land or interests in Federal land.

(D) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire land under this Act by donation, exchange or purchase with donated funds.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this Act and with the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—If the management plan for the Reconstruction Era National Monument—

(A) has not been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall incorporate all provisions of this Act into the planning process and complete a management plan for the historical park within 3 years; and

(B) has been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the plan incorporating the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORIC NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the “Reconstruction Era National Historic Network”;

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites interested in being a part of the Network; and

(3) administer the Network through the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of Reconstruction Era that may be underway or completed, such as the National Park Service Reconstruction Handbook and the National Park Service Theme Study on Reconstruction;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational and promotional materials relating to the Reconstruction Era and the sites in the network, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance;

(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under subparagraph (A); and

(3) conduct research relating to Reconstruction and the Reconstruction Era.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements—

(1) all units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the Reconstruction Era;

(2) other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines—

(A) relate to the Reconstruction Era; and

(B) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places; and

(3) other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Reconstruction Era.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this Act and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

(e) NETWORK DEFINED.—The term “Network” means the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established pursuant to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The Reconstruction era that followed the Civil War was a time of significant transformation for the United States. Reconstruction addressed how the 11 States that had left the Union would be reestablished in Congress, as well as how the civil rights and integration into a free society of 4 million formerly enslaved individuals could be secured.

The Reconstruction Era National Monument was established by Presidential declaration in January 2017 as a unit of the National Park Service. It is located in Beaufort County, South Carolina, an area that has been called the birthplace of Reconstruction.

In and around this area, some of the first African Americans enlisted as soldiers and founded the first African American schools and hospitals during Reconstruction.

This was also the home of Robert Smalls, a former slave who became a political leader, serving on two State constitutional conventions: in the

State legislature and, ultimately, the U.S. Congress.

H.R. 5532 redesignates Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand the park boundary. The bill also establishes the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, which will connect similar sites across the country to promote education and preservation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), my esteemed colleague.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TSONGAS for managing this bill, and I thank Mr. GIANFORTE for appearing here on the floor today.

I also thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support of this legislation in the Natural Resources Committee.

I also thank Congressman MARK SANFORD, who is a cosponsor of this bill, but remains in Charleston this evening for obvious reasons. I pray God’s blessing upon him, his constituents, mine, and all others who find themselves in the path of this horrific hurricane.

Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in this august body, I have worked to preserve and protect our Nation’s most treasured historical sites and institutions.

Reconstruction, a period which lasted a little more than 13 years, is a crucial period in American history. Although it ended March 17, 1877, we tend to apply the label “Reconstruction era” to the latter four decades of the 19th century. It was during those years that African Americans across the South began their freedom from slavery, gained citizenship, and enjoyed equal protection of the laws and the right to vote under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Some of the oldest and best preserved sites from the Reconstruction era are located in Beaufort County, South Carolina. Brick Baptist Church and Penn Center on St. Helena Island were the site of the original Penn School, founded in 1862 by Quaker missionaries to educate newly freed slaves, the first such school established in the South.

Camp Saxton in Port Royal was a Union Army camp where, on January 1, 1863, Union General Rufus Saxton read President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation to thousands of slaves who had gathered to celebrate their new freedom. The camp was also the site where the First South Carolina Volunteers were assembled, the first official Black regiment of the United States Army.

With overwhelming support from their communities and local elected leadership, these sites and a visitors center in downtown Beaufort were designated Reconstruction Era National Monument by President Obama in January of 2017.

The bill under consideration today will do three things:

First, redesignate the national monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park;

Second, provide for possible boundary expansions within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District and on St. Helena Island; and

Third, establish the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network.

As a national park is the highest level of protection and prestige our government can bestow, I believe passing this legislation will send a powerful message regarding the significance of these Reconstruction sites.

Having served previously as the sponsor of the legislation redesignating the Congaree Swamp National Monument as the Congaree National Park, I can attest that the rebranding of the park resulted in an increase in annual visitors of almost 20 percent, a significant economic impact to rural South Carolina.

Congress has, in recent years, redesignated both the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument as national historical parks, two sites with similar historical significance but focus on much different aspects of American history.

Of course, the sites currently included in the national monument are not the only significant Reconstruction sites worthy of preservation. This legislation would allow for expansion of the boundary near the existing monument. Several very significant Reconstruction sites in the area were considered for inclusion. This bill would allow for expansion with appropriate agreement between all owners and stakeholders.

However, it is not feasible to incorporate all historic sites from Reconstruction into one national park. The Reconstruction Era National Historic Network would be a program operated by the National Park Service, but sites in the network will be managed by their current owners, whether Federal, State, local, or private.

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This concept has been utilized in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the recently enacted African American Civil Rights Network.

When the national monument was under construction, I heard from many communities with sites they thought were worthy of inclusion. With the network in place, communities can make their case for Federal recognition and assistance for their significant Reconstruction era sites without the National Park Service having to take on the obligation of owning or managing the sites.

Sites like Mitchelville on Hilton Head Island, which was a self-governing African-American community established during the Civil War, are deserving of Federal recognition.

Mitchelville is perfect for the network concept, where the local municipal leadership is moving forward to manage the site on their own, but would welcome the increased recognition and visibility that inclusion in the network would provide.

I often invoke the adage that if we fail to learn the lessons of our history, we are bound to repeat it. Sadly, many of the gains made by African Americans during the Reconstruction era were lost in the Jim Crow era that followed. Reconstruction is a story of the triumph of freedom, but it is also a lesson that freedoms are not permanent and can be fleeting, if not protected.

Passage of this legislation, helping our Nation preserve, protect, document, and promote the history of Reconstruction, is critical to avoiding past mistakes and guiding our pursuit of a more perfect Union.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, as we know, H.R. 5532 establishes the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park in and around Beaufort, South Carolina, to honor, protect, and preserve the historic structures and other resources from that chapter in American history. We know how effective that kind of protection can be.

Recognizing the importance of highlighting the resources in Beaufort, President Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate the site as a national monument.

This bill is an important follow-up to that original designation. It will ensure permanent protection and provide steady guidelines for future management.

I want to thank Mr. CLYBURN for his hard work throughout the initial designation process and the development of this bill. Without his leadership, this project would not have come this far, and he deserves our recognition.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5532, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 660) to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 660

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 “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the water resources infrastructure of the Bureau of Reclamation provides important benefits related to irrigated agriculture, municipal and industrial water, hydropower, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation in the 17 Reclamation States;

(2) as of 2013, the combined replacement value of the infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation was \$94,500,000,000;

(3) the majority of the water resources infrastructure facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation are at least 60 years old;

(4) the Bureau of Reclamation has previously undertaken efforts to better manage the assets of the Bureau of Reclamation, including an annual review of asset maintenance activities of the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(5) actionable information on infrastructure conditions at the asset level, including information on maintenance needs at individual assets due to aging infrastructure, is needed for Congress to conduct oversight of Reclamation facilities and meet the needs of the public.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “asset” means any of the following assets that are used to achieve the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the people of the United States:

(i) Capitalized facilities, buildings, structures, project features, power production equipment, recreation facilities, or quarters.

(ii) Capitalized and noncapitalized heavy equipment and other installed equipment.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “asset” includes assets described in subparagraph (A) that are considered to be mission critical.

(2) ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.—The term “Asset Management Report” means—

(A) the annual plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(B) any publicly available information relating to the plan described in subparagraph (A) that summarizes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate and manage infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(3) MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION NEED.—The term “major repair and rehabilitation need” means major nonrecurring maintenance at a Reclamation facility, including maintenance related to the safety of dams, extraordinary maintenance of dams, deferred major maintenance activities, and all other significant repairs and extraordinary maintenance.

(4) RECLAMATION FACILITY.—The term “Reclamation facility” means each of the infrastructure assets that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(5) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term “Reclamation project” means a project that is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, including all reserved works and transferred works owned by the Bureau of Reclamation.

(6) RESERVED WORKS.—The term “reserved works” means buildings, structures, facilities, or equipment that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation for which operations and maintenance are performed by employees of the Bureau of Reclamation or through a contract entered into by the Bureau of Reclamation, regardless of the source of funding for the operations and maintenance.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) TRANSFERRED WORKS.—The term “transferred works” means a Reclamation facility at which operations and maintenance of the facility is carried out by a non-Federal entity under the provisions of a formal operations and maintenance transfer contract or other legal agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

SEC. 4. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR RESERVED WORKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an Asset Management Report that—

(1) describes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation—

(A) to maintain in a reliable manner all reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(B) to standardize and streamline data reporting and processes across regions and areas for the purpose of maintaining reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(2) expands on the information otherwise provided in an Asset Management Report, in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Asset Management Report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a detailed assessment of major repair and rehabilitation needs for all reserved works at all Reclamation projects; and

(B) to the extent practicable, an itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs of individual Reclamation facilities at each Reclamation project.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—To the extent practicable, the itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) a budget level cost estimate of the appropriations needed to complete each item; and

(B) an assignment of a categorical rating for each item, consistent with paragraph (3).

(3) RATING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The system for assigning ratings under paragraph (2)(B) shall be—

(i) consistent with existing uniform categorization systems to inform the annual budget process and agency requirements; and

(ii) subject to the guidance and instructions issued under subparagraph (B).

(B) GUIDANCE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance that describes the applicability of the rating system applicable under paragraph (2)(B) to Reclamation facilities.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Secretary shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, the Asset Management Report required under subsection (a).

(5) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary may exclude from the public version of the Asset Management Report made available under paragraph (4) any information that the Secretary identifies as sensitive or classified, but shall make available to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a version of the report containing the sensitive or classified information.

(c) UPDATES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Asset Management Report is submitted under subsection (a) and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall update the Asset Management Report, subject to the requirements of section 5(b)(2).

(d) CONSULTATION.—To the extent that such consultation would assist the Secretary in preparing the Asset Management Report under subsection (a) and updates to the Asset Management Report under subsection (c), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers); and

(2) water and power contractors.

SEC. 5. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR TRANSFERRED WORKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the non-Federal entities responsible for the operation and maintenance of transferred works in developing reporting requirements for Asset Management Reports with respect to major repair and rehabilitation needs for transferred works that are similar to the reporting requirements described in section 4(b).

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After considering input from water and power contractors of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Secretary shall develop and implement a rating system for transferred works that incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, the rating system for major repair and rehabilitation needs for reserved works developed under section 4(b)(3).

(2) UPDATES.—The ratings system developed under paragraph (1) shall be included in the updated Asset Management Reports under section 4(c).

SEC. 6. OFFSET.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of the project authorized by section 1617 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h–12c), the maximum amount of the Federal share of the cost of the project under section 1631(d)(1) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 390h–13(d)(1)) otherwise available as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for all Members to have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 660 is bipartisan legislation introduced by Representative PAUL GOSAR of Arizona.

For more than a century, the Bureau of Reclamation has transformed the West into a powerhouse that feeds the Nation and the world, and provides renewable and emissions-free energy for millions.

Bureau of Reclamation projects have proven to be critical to the American

way of life in the West, and we must ensure their protection for future generations. This means having open and honest discussions about the challenges the Bureau of Reclamation faces maintaining and repairing these projects.

To that end, H.R. 660 is a bipartisan bill that requires the Federal Government to make public in a unified way the estimated cost of repairs for reclamation facilities. The American public has asked for and deserves laws that reflect transparency and open discussion. H.R. 660 delivers that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his work on this. I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 660 would improve data collection and reporting on the condition of Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure. Much of the Bureau of Reclamation's aging water infrastructure was constructed more than one-half century ago.

It is critically important that Congress and the public have sufficient information on which facilities are most in need of major repairs, if we are going to properly address our Nation's water infrastructure needs.

H.R. 660 is bipartisan legislation that will help Congress gather the information we need.

I would also like to note for the record that stakeholders have expressed a desire for minor changes to section 6 of this bill, so that there are no unintended consequences for proposed water recycling projects. As this bill advances through the legislative process, it will be important to work with the bill sponsor and our Senate colleagues to refine the bill text.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 660, the Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act.

This bicameral, bipartisan legislation increases transparency, consolidates multiple reports, and requires the Bureau of Reclamation, the BOR, to do a thorough inventory of its assets, as well as prioritize major repairs necessary at the agency's facilities.

This bill has a strong history of bipartisan support. It was approved unanimously by the Senate in the 113th Congress, with Senators BARRASSO and SCHATZ ushering passage. The previous administration testified in strong support of the bill last Congress.

This Congress, the Trump administration testified in strong support of the Senate bill, which is identical to the House bill.

The bill has five Democratic cosponsors and 15 Republican cosponsors. The bill passed the House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent. Senator BARRASSO and Senator SCHATZ are again spearheading the Senate companion, and the Senate bill has passed the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

For more than a century, the Bureau of Reclamation has transformed the West into a powerhouse that feeds the Nation and the world while also providing renewable, emissions-free energy for millions of Americans.

BOR provides essential services that benefit water and power users, as well as our Nation's farmers. The agency delivers water to more than 30 million people and provides one in five Western farmers with water to irrigate their crops.

The BOR's assets include more than 476 dams and dikes, and the agency is also responsible for the operations of 53 different hydroelectric power plants.

This legislation is timely and necessary. The Bureau of Reclamation was established in 1902, and much of the agency's now-aging infrastructure was built more than 50 years ago. Many of the facilities operated by the BOR are in desperate need of repairs, to the tune of several billion dollars.

This bill requires the Federal Government make public the estimated cost of repairs for reclamation facilities. For years, Congress and water users throughout the country have asked for such information, only to be rebuffed time and again.

Taxpayers deserve accountability from their government and oversight on how it spends their money. Sunshine on expenditures and increased transparency is good for any Federal bureaucracy or agency.

The Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act requires a cost estimate and a detailed list of major repairs for BOR facilities. Such actions will allow for meaningful steps to be taken to address the maintenance backlog, as well as to ensure an abundant supply of clean water and power for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the committee's time and work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 660.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 660.

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.

AUTHORIZING EARLY REPAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WITHIN NORTHPORT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4689) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4689

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

SECTION 1. EARLY REPAYMENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (referred to in this section as the "District") may repay, at any time, the construction costs of project facilities allocated to the landowner's land within the District.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF FULL-COST PRICING LIMITATIONS.—On discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of all construction costs described in subsection (a) that are allocated to all land the landowner owns in the District in question, the parcels of land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (13 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—On request of a landowner that has repaid, in full, the construction costs described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the landowner a certificate described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) modifies any contractual rights under, or amends or reopens, the reclamation contract between the District and the United States; or

(2) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships between the District and landowners in the District under Nebraska State law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, under Federal reclamation law, irrigation districts that receive water from a Bureau of Reclamation facility

typically repay their portion of the capital costs of water projects under long-term contracts.

Under its current contract and current law, Northport Irrigation District is exempt from annual capital repayment if their carriage fee exceeds \$8,000 per year. Given the carriage fee has greatly exceeded this amount every year since the 1950s, Northport's capital repayment debt has been stagnant at more than \$923,000 since 1952. So long as the debt endures, landowners are subject to burdensome reporting requirements and acreage limitations, and no revenue is generated for the Federal Government.

I introduced this bill to provide members of the Northport Irrigation District early repayment authority under their dated reclamation contract. Allowing producers within the Northport Irrigation District to pay off their portion of the contract means the government will receive funds otherwise uncollected and landowners will be relieved of costly constraints that threaten family-owned operations.

For example, at a previous Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing, a member of the Northport district testified that acreage limitations will prohibit parents who own land in the district from passing down or selling farmland to sons and daughters who also own land in the same district.

Similar legislation has previously passed under bipartisan majorities and, according to past CBO projections, could generate as much as \$440,000 in Federal revenue.

This is a very simple bill that would make a big difference to some family farmers in Nebraska.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4689 would authorize landowners served by the Northport Irrigation District to prepay the remaining portion of construction costs allocated to them for the North Platte project. In exchange, the landowners who pay will no longer be subject to Federal acreage limitations and other requirements associated with the Reclamation Reform Act.

Mr. Speaker, we do not object to this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mr. SMITH for his work on this bill, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4689.

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. GIANFORTE. 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.

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UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2497) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2497

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Appropriate congressional committees defined.

TITLE I—SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

Sec. 101. Findings.
Sec. 102. Statement of policy regarding Israel’s defense systems.
Sec. 103. Assistance for Israel.
Sec. 104. Extension of war reserves stockpile authority.
Sec. 105. Extension of loan guarantees to Israel.
Sec. 106. Transfer of precision guided munitions to Israel.
Sec. 107. Sense of Congress on rapid acquisition and deployment procedures.
Sec. 108. Eligibility of Israel for the strategic trade authorization exception to certain export control licensing requirements.

TITLE II—ENHANCED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION

Sec. 201. United States-Israel space cooperation.
Sec. 202. United States Agency for International Development-Israel enhanced partnership for development cooperation in developing nations.
Sec. 203. Authority to enter into a cooperative project agreement with Israel to counter unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel.

TITLE III—ENSURING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE

Sec. 301. Statement of policy.

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In February 1987, the United States granted Israel major non-NATO ally status.

(2) On August 16, 2007, the United States and Israel signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding on United States military assistance to Israel. The total assistance over the course of this understanding would equal \$30,000,000,000.

(3) On July 27, 2012, the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150; 22 U.S.C. 8601 et seq.) declared it to be the policy of the United States “to help the Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional political transformation” and stated the sense of Congress that the United States Government should “provide the Government of Israel defense articles and defense services through such mechanisms as appropriate, to include air refueling tankers, missile defense capabilities, and specialized munitions”.

(4) On December 19, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296) which stated the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States and declared it to be the policy of the United States “to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System”.

(5) Section 1679 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 129 Stat. 1135) authorized funds to be appropriated for Israeli cooperative missile defense program development and coproduction, including funds to be provided to the Government of Israel to procure the David’s Sling weapon system as well as the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program.

(6) On September 14, 2016, the United States and Israel signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming the importance of continuing annual United States military assistance to Israel and cooperative missile defense programs in a way that enhances Israel’s security and strengthens the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

(7) The 2016 Memorandum of Understanding reflected United States support of Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant assistance to Israel over the ten year period beginning in fiscal year 2019 and ending in fiscal year 2028. FMF grant assistance would be at a level of \$3,300,000,000 annually, totaling \$33,000,000,000, the largest single pledge of military assistance ever and a reiteration of the seven-decade, unshakeable, bipartisan commitment of the United States to Israel’s security.

(8) The Memorandum of Understanding also reflected United States support for funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile, rocket, and projectile defense capabilities over a ten year period beginning in fiscal year 2019 and ending in fiscal year 2028 at a level of \$500,000,000 per year, totaling \$5,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING ISRAEL’S DEFENSE SYSTEMS.

It shall be the policy of the United States to provide assistance to the Government of Israel in order to support funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile, rocket, projectile, and other defense capabilities to help Israel meet its security needs and to help develop and enhance United States defense capabilities.

SEC. 103. ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.

Section 513(c) of the Security Assistance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-280; 114 Stat. 856) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2002 and 2003” and inserting “2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “equal to—” and inserting “not less than \$3,300,000,000.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B).

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018” and inserting “2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL.

Chapter 5 of title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108-11; 117 Stat. 576) is amended under the heading “LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL”—

(1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2023”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2023”.

SEC. 106. TRANSFER OF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS TO ISRAEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h), the President is authorized to transfer such quantities of precision guided munitions from reserve stocks to Israel as necessary for legitimate self-defense and otherwise consistent with the purposes and conditions for such transfers under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(b) **CERTIFICATIONS.**—Except in case of emergency, not later than 5 days before making a transfer under this section, the President shall certify in an unclassified notification to the appropriate congressional committees that the transfer of the precision guided munitions—

(1) does not affect the ability of the United States to maintain a sufficient supply of precision guided munitions;

(2) does not harm the combat readiness of the United States or the ability of the United States to meet its commitment to allies for the transfer of such munitions;

(3) is necessary for Israel to counter the threat of rockets in a timely fashion; and

(4) is in the national security interest of the United States.

SEC. 107. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RAPID ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should prescribe procedures for the rapid acquisition and deployment of precision guided munitions for United States counterterrorism missions, or to assist an ally of the United States, including Israel, that is subject to direct missile threat.

SEC. 108. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Israel has adopted high standards in the field of export controls.

(2) Israel has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

(3) Israel is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or

Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna October 26, 1979.

(4) Section 6(b) of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8603 note) directs the President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international agreements, to take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

(b) REPORT ON ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the steps taken pursuant to section 6(b) of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8603 note).

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be provided in unclassified form, but may contain a classified portion.

TITLE II—ENHANCED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION

SEC. 201. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SPACE COOPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Authorized in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) supports and coordinates United States Government research in aeronautics, human exploration and operations, science, and space technology.

(2) Established in 1983, the Israel Space Agency (ISA) supports the growth of Israel's space industry by supporting academic research, technological innovation, and educational activities.

(3) The mutual interest of the United States and Israel in space exploration affords both nations an opportunity to leverage their unique abilities to advance scientific discovery.

(4) In 1996, NASA and the ISA entered into an agreement outlining areas of mutual cooperation, which remained in force until 2005.

(5) Since 1996, NASA and the ISA have successfully cooperated on many space programs supporting the Global Positioning System and research related to the sun, earth science, and the environment.

(6) The bond between NASA and the ISA was permanently forged on February 1, 2003, with the loss of the crew of STS-107, including Israeli Astronaut Ilan Ramon.

(7) On October 13, 2015, the United States and Israel signed the Framework Agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America and the Israel Space Agency for Cooperation in Aeronautics and the Exploration and Use of Airspace and Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

(b) CONTINUING COOPERATION.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall continue to work with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest, taking all appropriate measures to protect sensitive information, intellectual property, trade secrets, and economic interests of the United States.

SEC. 202. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-ISRAEL ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It should be the policy of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to partner with Israel in order to advance common goals across a wide variety of sectors, including energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health, and water and sanitation.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding with Israel in order to enhance coordination on advancing common goals on energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health, and water and sanitation with a focus on strengthening mutual ties and cooperation with nations throughout the world.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL TO COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES THAT THREATEN THE UNITED STATES OR ISRAEL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On February 10, 2018, Iran launched from Syria an unmanned aerial vehicle (commonly known as a “drone”) that penetrated Israeli airspace.

(2) According to a press report, the unmanned aerial vehicle was in Israeli airspace for a minute and a half before being shot down by its air force.

(3) Senior Israeli officials stated that the unmanned aerial vehicle was an advanced piece of technology.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) joint research and development to counter unmanned aerial vehicles will serve the national security interests of the United States and Israel;

(2) Israel faces urgent and emerging threats from unmanned aerial vehicles, and other unmanned vehicles, launched from Lebanon by Hezbollah, from Syria by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, or from others seeking to attack Israel;

(3) efforts to counter unmanned aerial vehicles should include the feasibility of utilizing directed energy and high powered microwave technologies, which can disable vehicles without kinetic destruction; and

(4) the United States and Israel should continue to work together to defend against all threats to the safety, security, and national interests of both countries.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to enter into a cooperative project agreement with Israel under the authority of section 27 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767), to carry out research on, and development, testing, evaluation, and joint production (including follow-on support) of, defense articles and defense services, such as the use of directed energy or high powered microwave technology, to detect, track, and destroy unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel.

(2) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—The cooperative project agreement described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide that any activities carried out pursuant to the agreement are subject to—

(i) the applicable requirements described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section

27(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(b)(2)); and

(ii) any other applicable requirements of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) with respect to the use, transfers, and security of such defense articles and defense services under that Act;

(B) establish a framework to negotiate the rights to intellectual property developed under the agreement; and

(C) include appropriate protections for sensitive technology.

(d) REPORT ON COOPERATION.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report describing the cooperation of the United States with Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems that includes each of the following:

(A) An identification of specific capability gaps of the United States and Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems.

(B) An identification of cooperative projects that would address those capability gaps and mutually benefit and strengthen the security of the United States and Israel.

(C) An assessment of the projected cost for research and development efforts for such cooperative projects, including an identification of those to be conducted in the United States, and the timeline for the completion of each such project.

(D) An assessment of the extent to which the capability gaps of the United States identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) are not likely to be addressed through the cooperative projects identified pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(E) An assessment of the projected costs for procurement and fielding of any capabilities developed jointly pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (c).

(2) LIMITATION.—No activities may be conducted pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (c) until the date that is 15 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the report required under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—ENSURING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE

SEC. 301. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to ensure that Israel maintains its ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military, or emerging, threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damages and casualties, through the use of superior military means, possessed in sufficient quantity, including weapons, command, control, communication, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that in their technical characteristics are superior in capability to those of such other individual or possible coalition states or non-state actors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. 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 in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Israel faces growing threats, but particularly from Iran and its terrorist proxies such as Hezbollah.

This year, for the first time, we have seen direct military engagement between Iran and Israel. It is not just attacks coming over the border from Lebanon with Hezbollah, but direct military attacks. Iran launched a drone and fired rockets toward Israel. They did both from the perch that they have now in Syria. Those Iranian militia and troops are in Syria. Meanwhile, Iran's terrorist proxy, Hezbollah, continues to amass rockets and missiles. They have well over 100,000 in their inventory now. This bill will ensure that the United States continues to have Israel's back in the face of these growing threats.

With this measure, we are codifying the assistance levels in the latest 10-year U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding. What that aims to do is strengthen our already robust relationship, especially on defense matters. The bill also works to build on the United States' and Israel's successful history of cooperation on technology development. Think of the Iron Dome missile defense system, which shot down some of those Iranian rockets. Mr. ENGEL and I have seen those Iron Dome systems at work, deployed in Israel.

More recently, the U.S. and Israel have begun collaborating on anti-tunnel technology. Why?

Well, ELIOT and I can tell you that we had the opportunity—and this was a sad story—to go into one of those tunnels. We did not know where that tunnel ended up when we started. The other end of that tunnel was an elementary school in Israel. Obviously, the intent of the terrorists was to use that tunnel in order to go in and kidnap children and then force the IDF to fight block by block by block. Hamas dug those tunnels. Hezbollah digs tunnels, as well. This anti-tunnel technology will help the IDF find and destroy those tunnels that are used for smuggling and launching attacks on Israel.

This measure supports continued cooperation on space science and exploration, in line with the NASA Administrator's recent trip to Israel to discuss expanding U.S.-Israel space cooperation.

This bill also authorizes the United States and Israel to collaborate on humanitarian assistance projects around the world. It authorizes the President to transfer precision-guided munitions to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). She is chairman emeritus of the full committee and the current chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee. I thank her for her work on this bill. I also thank the gentleman from Florida, TED DEUTCH, the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee. Together, these two members authored the House companion to this Senate bill, which passed our committee unanimously, the latest in a long list of successful collaborations between our committee members.

In honor of her tremendous legacy as an advocate for Israel, we are naming this legislation the ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN United States-Israel Security Assistance Act of 2018.

In her almost three decades in the House, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN has made steadfast support for Israel a hallmark of her congressional career. She was the first woman to chair the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress. The U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger for the work that she has done in Congress. She will be greatly missed.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning S. 2497, the "United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018," which was referred to your Committee on August 3, 2018.

S. 2497 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 2497, United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of

2018, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on S. 2497 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.
Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 2497, United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on S. 2497 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. We are taking up a bill from the Senate that I fully support, with a couple of small amendments.

One of these amendments is to rename the legislation after a Member of this House. I find myself experiencing a little bit of denial, because it reminds me that one of our most able and valued colleagues is about to wrap up her distinguished career. I can't imagine what it is going to be like without ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN around here. She came to Congress the year after I did, and we have been close friends ever since.

The gentlewoman from Florida has been a dear friend and an exceptional colleague, and there has been no fiercer champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. So it is entirely fitting that we amend this bill to name it in her honor, the ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act.

Let me also thank the chief Democratic sponsor of this legislation, Mr.

DEUTCH, also of Florida, who has worked tirelessly to shape this legislation and to reaffirm the unshakable bond between the United States and Israel.

This bill, like the House version passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee, fully authorizes the historic memorandum of understanding, or MOU, between the United States and Israel, which President Obama signed and which will go into effect next year.

This MOU provides for a 10-year agreement at \$3.3 billion per year and a \$500 million missile defense pledge, the largest single pledge of military assistance in our country's history. The MOU is a concrete example of something I often say; while prime ministers may come and go, Presidents come and go, members of Knesset come and go, and Members of Congress come and go, the U.S.-Israel relationship is here to stay.

Our relationship with Israel benefits both our countries. For both of us, it strengthens security and stability, and advances our shared values. This is the bedrock of our friendship. This bill moves us forward in new areas of cooperation.

For example, Mr. KILMER of Washington wrote a provision that will spur closer cooperation on space issues. Mr. CRIST of Florida wrote a section dealing with unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel. Mr. SCHNEIDER's work will help ensure Israel's qualitative military edge. Mr. BOYLE included a measure that will increase Israel's access to precision-guided munitions.

I would like to point out a couple of issues, which I hope we can address through additional legislation. This bill was originally intended to include Mr. LANGEVIN's legislation to enhance U.S.-Israel cooperation on cybersecurity. This is an area where we should be working together. So I was disappointed that it was struck from this, and I hope that it soon crosses the finish line as a standalone bill.

Additionally, Mr. BOYLE's bill to allow Israel to purchase precision-guided weapons was included in the Senate bill. The Armed Services Committee majority objected. So this version waters down the authorization for these purchases to a sense of Congress, which is considerably weaker.

While I wish Armed Services Republicans would reconsider their objection, I won't stand in the way of moving this critical bill forward at this time. I am told that their concern is jurisdictional, and I hope they will remain sensitive to this issue the next time a defense authorization comes to the floor loaded down with provisions that fall in the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Let me finish by saying that this bill is very timely. The threats facing the United States and Israel are becoming more urgent and more complex. ISIS is growing in the Sinai; Israel's neighbors are shouldering new burdens from refu-

gees, causing further instability; and Iran's behavior in the region has, unfortunately become even more dangerous. The United States has been there by Israel's side throughout this dangerous time. And that is the way it should be.

Today, we put that into law. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I congratulate my good friend, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emeritus of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the author of H.R. 5141, the House predecessor of the legislation we have before us.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his kind words and the words of my good friend, Ranking Member ENGEL. This is truly an unexpected, humbling honor. I thank both of their teams for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor, and I thank all Members and supporters of Israel. There are so many of us in this Chamber. We have been through a lot together and the U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger because every single one of us works hard at it.

Mr. Speaker, a special thank you to my dear friend and Florida colleague, TED DEUTCH, the great ranking member of our subcommittee, with whom I have had the honor of working so closely on these issues over the past 6 years. He is the author of this newly named bill and the one with that idea.

As so many know, Mr. Speaker, it has been an absolute joy for me to have been a part of this distinguished body for almost 30 years, as the chairman points out, to advocate for my constituents and to serve on our esteemed House Committee on Foreign Affairs to promote American ideals like freedom, democracy, and human rights, and to help strengthen the bonds we have with allies around the world.

No relationship, Mr. Speaker, is more important than the one that we have with the democratic Jewish State of Israel. Israel is an indispensable, strategic partner, not just for its protection of U.S. interests, but because of our shared beliefs and our shared values.

I have had the incredible honor and privilege to travel to Israel, both with the chairman, the ranking member, and Mr. DEUTCH. We have seen firsthand that these shared values and these shared beliefs are seen every day in Israel, after centuries of suffering, and it has allowed the Jewish people to beat all the odds and to develop a country that has become a thriving global leader.

It only gets more impressive when you consider the neighborhood where Israel is—one that has never been more dangerous and more threatening to them than it is today. The threats just keep getting tougher for Israel.

For all of these reasons, I am so proud to have authored, along with the ranking member, Mr. DEUTCH, this bill, because we have worked together on this and we advocated for the bill before us today.

The bill authorizes, as has been explained, additional security assistance for Israel at a minimum of \$3.3 billion, the level agreed to in the memorandum of understanding, for the next 10 years.

With this bill, Mr. Speaker, we both have the comfort of knowing that our support for Israel will be ironclad, but it also provides us with the flexibility to modify that support should the threats to Israel increase. If additional support is needed, it would be given.

From drones and emerging threats to cybersecurity to space to development cooperation in other countries, this bill also includes a host of other provisions to expand our collaboration in other areas. Collaboration is an important word because, as the chair and ranking member have pointed out, this bill has been a positive, collaborative effort by many Members in a bipartisan manner.

The U.S.-Israel partnership has never been stronger than it is today. It is my sincere honor to have played a very small part in that. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, in spite of its name.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the lead Democratic author on the House version of the bill. He is also a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the ranking member of the Middle East Subcommittee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in support of the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

□ 1730

I am proud to have worked on this critical security bill with my colleague and friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

The U.S.-Israel relationship has been and must continue to be a bipartisan priority regardless of the party in power at either end of Pennsylvania Avenue. With today's vote, we have the chance to reinforce that point.

The threats against Israel remain numerous and complex. Iran is seeking to secure a permanent foothold in neighboring Syria. Hezbollah continues to stockpile an estimated 150,000 missiles near Israel's border, and a humanitarian crisis looms in Gaza, threatening stability in Israel.

Israel must be prepared to defend itself from threats coming from every direction, from everything from the most rudimentary of weapons—as we have seen with the “arson kites” from Hamas, the “terror kites”—to advanced Iranian-made missiles.

The 2016 memorandum of understanding between our countries committed unprecedented levels of security. That assistance is \$38 billion over

10 years, and this bill will enshrine that figure into law. Notably, nearly all of this American taxpayer money will come back to the United States and support American jobs.

This bill will codify this memorandum and ensure that Israel has the capability to defend itself from any and all threats. That means strengthening Israel's qualitative military edge, authorizing cooperation on UAV technology, and expanding cooperation in new areas, such as space, and through a new effort to work together to provide humanitarian assistance around the globe.

When we consider legislation like this, we must remember that threats against Israel are also a threat to our security interests in the region. Enhancing Israel's security is a step towards strengthening our own national security, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Finally, I would like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her service to our Nation and particularly for her ardent and unwavering support for our ally, Israel, throughout her nearly three decades in Congress. Her long and decorated career in this Chamber, as historic as it was effective, will live on through her incredible achievements in our Nation's robust foreign policy.

Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN has been the leading voice on a foreign policy that stands up to rogue regimes wherever they are and always, always values human rights. Without a doubt, her contributions to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship will take their place in this body's history. There has been no greater champion than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman's contributions to the strengthening of the U.S.-Israel relationship will take their place in this body's history because there has been no greater champion than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. It has been an honor to work with her on this most recent effort to broaden and enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship, so it is only fitting that this piece of legislation should bear her name.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague. This bill is but a small part of the legacy that she leaves behind in this great Chamber. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with her. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the chairman, Mr. ROYCE. I am grateful for their leadership, as I am for Mr. ENGEL and the great job he does as ranking member.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Sub-

committee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Mr. DEUTCH for all of their very excellent comments towards our good friend and colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, a chairwoman in earnest who has been one of the greatest friends Israel has ever known in this Chamber.

The gentlewoman has been tenacious in her fight against terrorism, particularly as it relates to Iran, and against very considerable odds has been able to promote legislation that has made a huge difference in protecting the people of Israel from the ever-present threats, the existential threats that they face in the region. I thank Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. It is so fitting that this bill is named after her.

This bill authorizes, as we all know, enhanced military cooperation between our countries; it further enshrines Israel's qualitative military edge; it authorizes foreign military financing at an annual level of no less than \$3.3 billion, agreed to in the bilateral MOU negotiated under the Obama administration, but, crucially, the bill specifies that the assistance should be not less than \$3.3 billion. It is a statement that it is a floor and not a ceiling, so, over the next 10 years, at least that much and hopefully more because we know the needs are overwhelming.

The bill's other provisions: it facilitates the transfer of advanced, precision-guided missiles for Israel's use and lays the groundwork for bilateral cooperation that will assist Israel in confronting an evolving landscape of threats, including from unmanned UAVs.

The many facets of cooperation supported by this bill, from international development to space exploration, are not just for Israel's benefit. They also contribute to our national security. The U.S. is safer when Israel is stronger. This bill translates that fundamental principle into practical initiatives for fruitful collaboration and mutual benefit.

It is fitting, again, that this act will be named after a great American and a great friend of Israel, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a very valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a cosponsor of this bill.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to work with Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. And Mr. POE, it has been a great pleasure and honor to work with you in a bipartisan manner on our Foreign Affairs Committee.

I am very proudly standing here, of course, in support of this United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act, which recognizes Israel's right to defend itself and writes into law the continued cooperation between our two countries.

Defending Israel is in our national security interest, as is ensuring our great friend and ally is safe. It is more important than ever, as mentioned by my colleagues here today.

When you look at the region, there is reason to be worried: Hamas in Gaza, rebuilding its rocket arsenal and calling for Israel's destruction; Iran now threatening to dramatically increase its enrichment of uranium while constructing military bases in Syria; ISIS wreaking havoc in Sinai; and Hezbollah pointing 150,000 missiles at Israel.

So we must continue strengthening Israel's defenses, and this important bill codifies the memorandum of understanding with Israel signed by the Obama administration, the largest U.S. military assistance package ever.

The measure also expands U.S.-Israel cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including authorizing USAID to partner with Israel to aid low-income countries; by leveraging Israeli innovations in the water, food, security, energy, and global health sectors.

In an increasingly polarized Washington, Israel can never be a partisan issue. That is why I am so glad this is not a partisan issue. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield for 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 thank the ranking member for yielding to me in support of this measure that I think is most deserving for my dear friend from Florida.

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

Let me again applaud the chief sponsors of this legislation, Representatives ROS-LEHTINEN and DEUTCH, along with their Senate counterparts, for their tremendous work.

Let me also, again, as I have many times, thank our chairman. We have worked very closely together on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and this is proof of that kind of collaboration where we have both sides of the aisle doing things that are good for the United States of America.

This legislation and the MOU that it puts into law represents the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and the shared interests and values that have been the hallmark of this relationship.

As Chairman ROYCE mentioned before, he and I have been there together many times. We have seen those terror tunnels. We have seen all kinds of things. The people of Israel need the United States, and we need the people of Israel.

The United States has stood up for democracy through all these glorious years of our being a republic, and we

cannot stop now. That is why legislation such as this bipartisan legislation is so important for us to pass.

This, in law, represents the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and the shared interests and values that have been the hallmark of this relationship.

The Middle East is a very dangerous neighborhood. We here in the United States have the benefit of stepping back a bit, but we are not on the front line day in and day out the way the beleaguered people of Israel are with one country after another vowing to try to destroy it.

This Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, stands together and says that the United States stands with the people of Israel, and that makes me very proud of this Congress, proud of our Foreign Affairs Committee, proud of our chairman, and proud of all the people who have spoken, particularly ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who deserves all the accolades you can think of. Whatever I said wouldn't be dramatic enough to explain the force that she has been for the past 30 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee doing good things, particularly with the State of Israel.

It is going to be difficult to not see her here, but I know she will be doing everything that she can continue to do to enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

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

The democratic Jewish State of Israel is a friend and a major strategic partner of the United States. Israel is a beacon, as Ileana shared with us, of freedom, of democracy, of stability in the otherwise troubled Middle East. In short, it is the very opposite of the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime.

Iran has never made its threats to Israel a secret, and that is what they mean when the Ayatollah says: "Death to Israel; death to America."

After years of moving the pieces into place, including by showering its proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, with money and with rockets and with missiles and attempting to exploit the conflict in Syria to build a military presence and support base there on the border, it is slowly but surely preparing to make good on this threat. With this bill, we can ensure that Israel has the tools to defend it self and defend our shared interests in the face of that mounting threat.

I do thank our ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL, and I do thank TED DEUTCH for all of the bipartisan cooperation that has allowed us to move so many measures through the committee, through the Senate, and into law.

I also want, in closing, to thank and to note that I was the beneficiary of the good work of my predecessor in this position, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, when I took over the committee 6

years ago, and for that I am also very thankful.

I am thankful for the contributions that all of these individuals have made to the betterment of our defense, the security of the United States, the security of our allies. I am proud of the fact that we have done it in a bipartisan way.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

This bill would enshrine in law the 2016 U.S. Memorandum of Understanding that the Obama Administration reached with Israel.

This landmark agreement provides for historic levels of security cooperation with and assistance to Israel. Enacting this legislation would send an unmistakable message to Israel's enemies that the American commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

Israel continually faces threats from all sides, and we have the responsibility to be sure that Israelis have everything they need in order to defend her citizens.

Whether it's missiles, tunnels, arson kites, or potential border breaches from Hamas in Gaza, rockets from Hezbollah in Lebanon, drones from Iranian forces in Syria, or whatever other lethal attempt may be devised, Israel must be ready to combat whatever comes her way.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's security is nonnegotiable. With enemies committed to the country's destruction throughout the entirety of its 70-year existence, Israel's qualitative military edge is absolutely necessary, and I am pleased that this bill ensures that this edge will be maintained.

Even amidst persistent security threats, Israel has been a remarkable leader in technological and humanitarian endeavors. This legislation, by enhancing U.S.-Israeli cooperation in space exploration and international development, will strengthen both of our countries and many other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong far into the future, I can think of no more fitting namesake for this bill than my friend and colleague, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Israel has a true friend and supporter in Ileana, and as she departs at the end of this Congress, we will all be well served to follow her example of working across the aisle to ensure that American support for Israel remains unbreakable.

To that end, I proudly urge the passage of the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act. As Israel faces growing threats from Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, this bill reaffirms the United States' strong belief that Israel has the right to defend herself and ensures that Israel has the means to do so. Passage of this bill will send a powerful message to Israel's adversaries: the United States will continue to stand with Israel. I will note that this bill is appropriately named for my good friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-

LEHTINEN, who as we all know is departing at the end of this Congress. Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN has been a strong supporter of Israel, a champion of democracy across the world, and one of this chamber's true believers in the ideal of bipartisan foreign policy. So I thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership, and I urge all my colleagues to support this important measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2497, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1911

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 of 2018".

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, but 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, disturbingly, incidents of anti-Semitism are on the increase across Europe, across the Middle East, frankly, across the world. As Moshe Kantor, the vice president of the World Jewish Caucus, has said: “We are witnessing a global process of radicalization. . . . Unfortunately, and with no surprise, the common element that unifies radicals seems to be their hatred of Jews.”

Today, anti-Semitism is increasingly being acted upon and, in some cases, even institutionalized. Country by country, we are seeing school curriculums attempting to indoctrinate children and attempting to spread hate. We are seeing courts and legislation institutionalize anti-Semitism. And we are seeing acts of violence against the Jewish people and their places of worship being excused.

How do they rationalize it? Under the guise of a political protest.

It is critical that the U.S. play a leading role to stop this scourge of hate. Yet for more than a year and a half, the top position at the State De-

partment charged with combating anti-Semitism worldwide has remained vacant.

Further, for more than 1 year, the office has also been completely unstaffed. This is unacceptable. I have raised this issue before.

As a senior official at the State Department reminded world leaders this past winter: “Absent action, the sacred pledge of ‘never again’ can become empty rhetoric.”

We cannot allow that to happen, and the bill before us today, H.R. 1911, will help reassert U.S. leadership in combating anti-Semitism worldwide. It will mandate the expeditious appointment of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and it will elevate the office to ambassadorial rank with direct access to the Secretary of State.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 1911.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor of this bill, and I am pleased that we are considering it today.

I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their hard work on this bill and their hard work on this effort: Congressman CHRIS SMITH, the author of this legislation, and my fellow co-chairs of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism. I am proud to stand with a group of legislators committed to fighting intolerance and hatred.

Mr. Speaker, every day, more and more alarming anti-Semitic attacks shock the world: Holocaust survivors violently assaulted, rallies and parades glorifying Nazi leaders, swastikas graffitied to incite fear and terror. The list goes on and on.

And let’s be clear, Mr. Speaker, this isn’t just happening in faraway places. We have seen a sickening increase of anti-Semitic acts in our country as well. We have seen people who embrace hatred and bigotry given a loud new megaphone to spread their poison.

As a country, we need to come together to say enough is enough. We need to say there are not good people on both sides. 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 all need to do it as citizens. We need to do so in our laws and in our policies. And the very least that we could do is have the administration fill the positions that are supposed to be dealing with this issue. The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism position at the State Department is still vacant. That is really unacceptable.

We must have a senior official to push back against the intolerance and hatred of anti-Semitism. American leadership is desperately needed in the fight against this ancient form of hatred. I am fed up with the administra-

tion dragging its feet on filling this crucial position. It should happen now.

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. That is 4 months.

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. So I strongly support this measure, and I ask my colleagues to join me doing so.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. He is the author of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this legislation on the issue itself; ELIOT ENGEL, of course, who has been a great friend, a part of this Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism; and you, Mr. Presiding Speaker, you are one of the cosponsors. We have 83 bipartisan cosponsors, and this is an idea whose time has come.

I especially want to thank Leader MCCARTHY for making sure the bill got to the floor today, for his leadership and strong support for it.

Anti-Semitism, Mr. Speaker, is exploding. Just look around in any country in the world, look at the human rights reports that are out there, and it is a problem here in the United States as well. It is exploding.

My first trip to the Soviet Union, now Russia, of course, was in 1982 on behalf of Soviet refuseniks. When I saw what that country was doing to individual Jewish men and women and families, I became committed then. I worked with Mr. HASTINGS on this for many, many years with the Helsinki Commission, to try to combat this ever escalating scourge of anti-Semitism. It is an age-old scourge. It is bad, and it is getting worse.

There is a persistent anti-Semitism, as I think my colleagues know, that historically has manifested itself throughout European history, from pogroms in Russia, to the Dreyfus affair, to Nazism in the 1930s, and, of course, the Holocaust right up until its modern-day iterations.

This has been joined, however, by two other streams of hate: one emanating from the world of militant Islam and one that is sometimes fomented by countries such as Iran. Strains of this new anti-Semitism can be heard in the demand of the BDS movement—boycott, divestment, sanctions—which always singles out Israel and rarely other countries like China

who engage in pervasive human rights abuse.

My friend and former Soviet refusenik, Natan Sharansky, testified at two of my hearings on combating anti-Semitism. He proposed what he called a simple test to help us distinguish between legitimate criticism of Israel from anti-Semitism. Sharansky called it the “three Ds: demonization, double standard, and delegitimization.”

First, demonization. When Israel’s actions are blown all out of sensible proportions, and when comparisons are made between Israelis and the Nazis, which is absolutely sick and pathetic, this is anti-Semitism, not a legitimate criticism of Israel.

Second, double standard. When criticism of Israel is applied selectively, when Israel is singled out, libeled, and slandered by the U.N. Human Rights Council, for example, while the behavior or other egregious violators like China, Iran, Cuba, and Syria are largely ignored, that, too, is anti-Semitism.

The third “D” is delegitimization. In other words, Israel does not have a fundamental right to exist.

In light of this, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive U.S. Government approach.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there is a need for a comprehensive approach. In 2004, I offered an amendment that became law to create the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and also the amendment that created the Special Envoy. And I do call on President Trump to name that Special Envoy.

This elevates it to ambassador, so there will be additional gravitas so that this individual, whoever he or she may be, will have the ability to have direct access to the Secretary of State on the issue of combating anti-Semitism.

The bill also prohibits the position from being double-hatted. We know how that happens. All of a sudden, one person does all these different kinds of portfolios and becomes the master of none.

It also requires, as ELIOT ENGEL said a moment ago, that, within 90 days of enactment of this act and thereafter, we need this name and we need this to be put forward so that we can get that person on the job and doing this great work.

Again, I look around at people who are getting ready to speak, PETER ROSKAM, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, 83 cosponsors, totally bipartisan, and absolutely needed.

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 thank the ranking member, and I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), one of the chairs of the Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, and, again, a very esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Ranking Member ENGEL. I rise in support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, and I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for leading this bill and all of my colleagues for their support.

It has been more than a year and a half since this administration came into office, and this position remains vacant. Aside from some rumors around Washington, we don’t know when this role will be filled.

This position was created in 2004 with bipartisan support. I am sure my colleagues would agree that Congress doesn’t pass laws for them to be ignored.

It is imperative that there is someone at the State Department working to combat anti-Semitism globally. They should be working with Jewish communities, building coalitions, tracking cases, and pushing governments to do more to combat it. We need someone who will be our Nation’s leading global advocate to combat anti-Semitism.

We are seeing Jewish communities outside the United States and Israel shrink because they no longer feel safe in their own cities. We are hearing truly appalling stories, horrific stories like the Holocaust survivor who was brutally murdered in her apartment. We are feeling the hate speech rise, whether by politicians on extreme sides of the political spectrum or individuals empowered and amplified by social media.

We urgently need someone in our government charged with addressing this scourge. This is not a time to abdicate our proud and historic leading role of pushing governments to protect their Jewish community, because if there is anti-Semitism that is growing in a country, it means that there is hatred growing in that country, and, ultimately, everyone is at risk.

Our government cannot be silent in these moments. Filling this position must be a top priority. I call on my colleagues to support this bill, which will send a strong statement to the world that the United States remains committed to combat this bigotry and to defend Jewish communities and to fight hatred.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member. I am proud to be a cosponsor of

Mr. SMITH’s very important bill, H.R. 1911, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.

As a founding member and co-chair of the Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, I have been urging the administration to make the Special Envoy position at the State Department a priority and to fill that position as soon as possible.

In recent years, the spike in anti-Jewish violence and harassment has been alarming, and not just in Europe, sadly, but across the globe, and even here in our own wonderful Nation.

□ 1800

It is also worrisome that we are seeing anti-Semitism couched and disguised in anti-Israel political rhetoric.

This bill ensures that we have someone at the Ambassador level giving these issues full attention, and with access to the highest-level officials in other nations.

I am also proud to have my amendment included in the bill, which adds a deadline for the appointment, 90 days from enactment of this act, and 120 days from when this position becomes vacant.

Even though current law states that there shall be an appointment, there is no clarity on whether an administration has a finite time to make one. So this is why it is important that we add a deadline to fill this Special Envoy position as quickly as possible.

I encourage all my colleagues to support Mr. SMITH’s important bill, H.R. 1911; and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, if there are no other speakers on the other side, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I have one more speaker. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and co-chair of the bipartisan Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, there is a quotation that is familiar that is brought to my attention this afternoon as we are debating this, and it has echoes for today. It is by Martin Niemöller, who was a Lutheran pastor in Germany; and this is what he said:

“First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to do something good today, to build on the work that Congressman SMITH has initiated and that has been shepherded through this process by Chairman ROYCE and by Ranking Member ENGEL; and that is to recognize the

growing rise of anti-Semitism around the world and to say, we are not only not going to be complicit in it, we are going to speak out about it, and we are going to bring attention to it, and we are going to bring the full force and power of the United States Government and its moral authority and its imprimatur on this issue. There is real power in that.

You have heard both sides going back and forth sort of being reminded of this responsibility that we have because we have seen anti-Semitism, Mr. Speaker, arise within the last year alone in Germany, in Brazil, in France, in Hungary, and in New Zealand.

In closing, the Anti-Defamation League has pointed out that in the last year alone there have been over 4 million English language tweets that are anti-Semitic. This is upon us.

So what Congressman SMITH has initiated now is to raise the status of this person to make sure they are not just a Special Envoy, but to raise that to ambassadorial status for all the obvious reasons; to get this person appointed quickly; and to have this post filled and brought with real authority.

I urge its passage, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

In closing, I want to, again, strongly support this bipartisan bill. I want to thank all the people who have worked hard on it, particularly Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, who always, for years, has been battling the scourge of anti-Semitism; our chairman, Chairman ROYCE, and people on both sides of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

We can never become complacent when we see anti-Semitism, or anti-everything 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 it 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're leading America's effort to grapple with this problem around the world."

This bill would make sure that that seat can't stay vacant the way it has been for the last 18 months. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I, again, thank Mr. SMITH, Chairman ROYCE, and all the people who have worked so hard for this.

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

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

We have seen the horrific consequences when free societies turn a blind eye to anti-Semitic incitement and to anti-Semitic violence. Passage of this bill reaffirms that combating anti-Semitism is a top priority for the United States, and it will fill the Special Envoy position and provide it with adequate staff that is going to strengthen our ability to work with our partners overseas.

So I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1911, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. 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.

URGING ALL NATIONS TO OUTLAW THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 401) urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 401

Whereas the consumption of dog meat has occurred in every corner of the world including in Asia;

Whereas established dog meat markets still exist in Asia;

Whereas the Humane Society International, Animals Asia Foundation, and others estimate that 30,000,000 dogs and 10,000,000 cats die annually across Asia for the trade in dog and cat meat;

Whereas it is estimated as many as 200,000 live dogs are trafficked each year from Thailand across the Mekong River to Vietnam, where dog meat is considered a delicacy;

Whereas cat meat, known locally as "little tiger", is also a delicacy in Vietnam and, although officially banned, is widely available in specialty restaurants;

Whereas due to a traditional belief that high adrenaline levels produce tender meat and increase supposed health benefits, dogs killed for their meat may be first intentionally subjected to extreme fear and suffering through hanging or bludgeoning;

Whereas there appears to be little scientific evidence to support traditional claims of the health benefits of consuming dog meat;

Whereas there have been reports of abuse, poor living conditions, and cruel slaughtering techniques with respect to dogs and cats farmed for their meat;

Whereas many dogs and cats die during transport to slaughterhouses, after days or weeks crammed into small cages on the back of vehicles without food or water, and others suffer from illness or injury during such transport;

Whereas in February 2015, Vietnamese authorities impounded a truck in Hanoi smuggling three tons of live cats from China that were intended for the illegal cat meat trade, but then buried thousands of the seized cats—many, reportedly, while alive—claiming a desire to avoid the spread of disease;

Whereas the extreme suffering of dogs and cats at such slaughterhouses and on such transportation trucks would breach anti-cruelty laws in the United States, such as the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

Whereas many government officials, civil society advocates, and activists are working to end the dog and cat meat trade on anti-cruelty and public health grounds, and the governments of Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong have passed laws banning the slaughter of dogs for meat consumption;

Whereas Chinese activists have claimed that stolen pets are sometimes used in the dog meat market in China;

Whereas Chinese dog transporters reportedly routinely flout regulations such as the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Bureau Circular No. 16 (2013), which requires dogs to be quarantined and issued a quarantine certificate before being transported across provincial boundaries;

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies, although consumption of dog meat alone has not been confirmed to spread rabies to humans;

Whereas those involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infectious material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of such diseases may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog meat at open-air markets and restaurants; and

Whereas Betsy Miranda, Asia Coordinator for the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, said in June 2013 that the spread of disease through the dog meat trade was "rampant" across Southeast Asia, and that "The risk that the animals are in poor health and not vaccinated is very high. If they move across borders they risk carrying the disease across large distances": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls for an end to the dog and cat meat trade on cruelty and public health grounds;

(2) urges all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and enforce existing laws against such trade; and

(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to the protection of animals and to advancing the progress of animal protection around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS for authoring this important measure on the dog and cat meat trade. It is an important issue to animal

lovers around this globe, and this resolution has garnered tremendous bipartisan support. He has over 100 cosponsors in this Congress for it.

Protecting the world's animals, whether we are talking about dogs and cats or rhinoceros and elephant, it is not a partisan issue; and I am proud to have authored a number of critical pieces of legislation to advance this cause, including the END Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, we have made some important progress toward stopping the consumption of dog meat around the world. But, sadly, dog meat markets still exist in Asia.

In fact, it is estimated that 30 million dogs and 10 million cats die annually across Asia as a result of the dog and cat meat trade, and they often live under horrendous conditions.

And this practice—I would make one other point—it also raises serious public health concerns. The World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of multiple serious diseases, including cholera, and including rabies. The spread of disease is made worse by all aspects of the trade, from the unsanitary conditions of slaughter, and the sale of dog meat in open-air markets and restaurants, and from that, to the trafficking of these animals across international borders.

This important resolution urges all nations to abolish the dog and cat meat trade, to enforce existing laws against such trade, and to affirm the U.S. commitment to protecting animals, both here at home and around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I too rise in support of this measure.

Let me, first of all, thank my friend from Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, for his work on this resolution, and thank Chairman ROYCE for moving it forward.

This is one of those issues that certainly stirs the emotions of anyone who learns about it. The horrible abuse of dogs and cats crammed into cages, driven across borders, slaughtered and sold in meat markets, it just seems so cruel and needless.

The animal rights community has come together around this issue, pleading for an end to these inhumane practices, particularly in the markets in Asia where this takes place the most.

There are broader concerns as well. The trade of dog and cat meat is associated with health risks, including the spread of disease. And an illegal market for this meat has sprung up in places where governments have failed to step in and enforce their own laws against these practices.

So I think it is important that the House go on record saying we oppose this practice. I am glad to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the esteemed gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I thank my good friend, the chairman of this committee, for bringing this forward.

I rise in support of this measure, urging all nations to outlaw the inhumane dog and cat meat trade, and to enforce existing laws against this barbaric practice.

In June of 2017, I introduced this measure with my distinguished colleague and cochairman of the Florida delegation, Congressman VERN BUCHANAN.

It is estimated that tens of millions of dogs and cats are killed for human consumption annually across the globe. This display of animal cruelty is not only inhumane, but also a threat to public health for citizens and international visitors.

This resolution affirms the United States' commitment to the protection of animals, and advances the animal protection movement rapidly growing worldwide.

These innocent animals, often personal pets, are forcibly taken, shoved into cages with broken bones, then shipped long distances, without food or water, to meat markets, where they are regularly bludgeoned, mutilated, boiled, or skinned while still alive.

When I was a child, I had three big dogs, True Boy, August, and Tuesday. And in their memory, I am sure that they would be equally proud that their owner was standing up for descendants of theirs and others.

By passing H. Res. 401, Congress can bring the world one step closer to hopefully ending this cruel practice once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the thousands of activists across the country and around the globe for their tireless efforts. They have never wavered in their commitment in the fight against the global dog and cat meat trade.

It is my sincere hope that we expeditiously pass this measure. By doing so, we will send a strong message, that no matter where you live, animal cruelty is simply wrong.

A special thanks to Lisa Vanderpump, and Ken Todd, and Dr. John Sessa, all of them being my friends, and certainly, Marc Ching, who has personally witnessed many of these things in Yulin and elsewhere, that brought my attention to this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), a cosponsor of this bill, and a valuable member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and also to my friend from Florida who sponsored this legislation.

I too rise in support of H. Res. 401. It is a resolution urging countries around the world to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade, and to recommit to enforcing existing laws against this horrible practice.

As you have heard, approximately 30 million dogs and tens of millions of cats are killed annually for human consumption; and many suffer from abuse and cruelty during their lifetime, facing painful deaths at the hands of these horrible meat dealers. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the extreme torment that they have to endure.

In the United States, we cherish dogs and cats, recognizing their many contributions as service and therapy animals, search and rescue assistants, and police dogs that aid with drug and bomb searches.

□ 1815

They provide airport security, are companions to our veterans, and are cherished family pets.

As a member of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, which enjoyed the support of 150 bipartisan cosponsors and passed the committee by a voice vote. I have worked hard in Congress to end the dog and cat meat trade, eliminate the use of dog leather, and protect our furry and feathered friends from undue harm and abuse.

Hundreds of constituents have written us about this issue, and they want the United States to speak up and set an example. Mr. Speaker, I believe this resolution does just that. I thank those who are responsible for bringing it, those who have lent their voice in support of it, and I look forward to seeing it pass today.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me say in closing, I am, again, grateful to Mr. HASTINGS and to all the people who have helped elevate this issue. Actually, I have gotten many calls from people who are very, very concerned about this bill and who want to see it passed.

I have been a dog lover all my life, had the wonderful time to have dogs, and to me, it is just unfathomable that they are suffering like this in the trade to eat dogs and cats. It is really just something that is awful.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this measure. It is a bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS again for this legislation and for championing his support for the protection of dogs and cats around the world.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the

gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 401, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESCUING ANIMALS WITH REWARDS ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6197) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6197

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 "Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act of 2018" or the "RAWR Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational crime that is estimated to generate over \$10 billion a year in illegal profits and which is increasingly perpetrated by organized, sophisticated criminal enterprises, including known terrorist organizations.

(2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens endangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of law, fuels corruption, and damages economic development.

(3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a coordinated and sustained approach at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

(4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 that it is the policy of the United States to take immediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products and associated transnational organized crime.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of State's rewards program is a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international crime and that the Department of State and Federal law enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that target wildlife traffickers.

SEC. 3. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE.

Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting "wildlife trafficking (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C. 7601(12); Public Law 114-231)) and" after "includes".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure, which targets transnational wildlife traffickers through the State Department's existing global rewards program. These rewards will serve as a powerful tool to capture and to convict—to convict—wanted transnational criminals and terrorists who profit from the illegal wildlife trade.

Last week as we opened the papers, there were 87 elephant carcasses discovered in Botswana's Okavango Delta. These animals were shot by poachers. They were brutally stripped of their tusks. They were left to die.

This is a very real and urgent issue. Wildlife trafficking is generating over \$10 billion a year in illegal profits for increasingly sophisticated criminal syndicates, and it is also generating profits for terrorists who are involved in this kind of slaughter. The illegal ivory trade is especially lucrative.

Mr. Speaker, for years now, I have been engaged in this effort to save some of the most endangered species. During a recent trip to Tanzania, my colleagues and I met with the law enforcement and park rangers on the front lines. They told us how they were outmanned. They are outgunned. They are up against sophisticated criminal networks that use helicopters, that use night vision goggles.

We have met with local communities impacted by these crimes, who explain how wildlife trafficking jeopardizes local security, spreads disease, of course undermines the rule of law. It fuels corruption. It damages economic development.

Wildlife trafficking is a serious national security threat, and combating it requires a global approach to identifying and apprehending the world's worst offenders. And time is not on our side. Each day of inaction means more animals poached, more cash for criminal syndicates and terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's author, Representative DONOVAN, as well as cosponsors CASTRO and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their work on this important measure. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6197, the Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act of 2018.

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. CASTRO for introducing this important legislation, and I would also like to thank Chairman ROYCE for his incredible efforts over many, many years to promote the conservation of wildlife and wild places.

In recent years, Congress has taken a number of important steps to combat wildlife trafficking, but the situation remains dire. Over the last 10 years, one-third of African elephants have been slaughtered for their tusks.

Let me say that again. Over the last 10 years, one-third of African elephants have been slaughtered for their tusks. That is a shocking statistic.

Rhino populations have also been decimated, and many other species are at risk.

Protecting wildlife is the right thing to do. I know the Wildlife Conservation Society does a really good job. My good friend John Calvelli is leading the charge there, and so I am very aware of what we need to do to protect our wildlife.

But not only is it the right thing to do, it also serves American national security interests. Wildlife trafficking feeds corruption, undermines the rule of law, threatens economic prosperity, and drives instability, and it is carried out by many of the same international criminal syndicates engaged in the trafficking of drugs, weapons, and people.

This bipartisan, commonsense legislation before us today provides our government with a tool it can use to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife. Specifically, it authorizes rewards under the State Department's Rewards for Justice program for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those engaged in wildlife trafficking. This can provide a powerful financial incentive for people to turn in those responsible for this appalling activity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, a former prosecutor. He is the author of this bill.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the RAWR Act, Rescuing Animals With Rewards, H.R. 6197.

The RAWR Act will help ensure that taking down terrorists and transnational criminal organizations engaged in wildlife trafficking and poaching will be a top Rewards priority.

Combating terrorism is of the utmost importance, not just to my constituents, not just to New Yorkers, but to the entire Nation. It is an issue that transcends party lines.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support from the Wildlife Conservation Society and a letter of

support and endorsement from the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and Humane Society International.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY,
Bronx, NY, September 12, 2018.

Hon. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, Jr.,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DONOVAN: The Wildlife Conservation Society writes to express our support for H.R. 6197, the RAWR Act, as a way to help crack down on the destabilizing criminal trafficking that threatens both wildlife and U.S. economic and security interests.

The RAWR Act would allow the U.S. Department of State to add wildlife trafficking, as defined by the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, to the list of transnational criminal activities for which it may provide monetary rewards to informants and tipsters. As the founders of the 96 Elephants campaign, dedicated to stopping the killing, trafficking and demand for illegal wildlife, we would applaud this change.

Wildlife trafficking is a serious national security issue. The transnational organized criminal groups that profit from illegal wildlife products are the same ones trafficking in weapons, narcotics and people. This activity destabilizes regions important for U.S. economic interests and undermines the good governance and the rule of law.

Targeting wildlife trafficking is essential if we want future generations to live in a world that is still home to our most iconic animals. The demand for ivory, rhino horn, tiger skins, and other products is causing those endangered species and many others to rapidly diminish.

WCS works globally to disrupt wildlife trafficking networks and the criminals that run them, creating and sharing intelligence products with government enforcement agencies, and improving communications at the national and international scale to implement proactive enforcement activities. The passage of the RAWR Act would add an effective new tactic to the efforts to stop wildlife trafficking.

We appreciate all your work on international conservation issues, from taking part in last year's ivory crush in New York's Central Park to leading on the push for U.S. government investments in global anti-trafficking programs, which has been of invaluable assistance in securing the world's endangered wildlife.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.

Hon. DAN DONOVAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DONOVAN: We are pleased to offer the support and endorsement of The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society Legislative Fund, and Humane Society International for the Rescuing Animals With Rewards (RAWR) Act of 2018, H.R. 6197.

Wildlife trafficking is one of the biggest global threats to wild animals and one of the most lucrative illicit trades in the world, generating more than \$10 billion a year. It is a main culprit in the declines of countless species, from elephants and tigers to pangolins. The underground revenues of the trade also threaten the rule of law by fueling international organized crime and terrorism.

The RAWR Act takes a positive step against wildlife trafficking by building on the success of the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-231), authorizing the U.S. Department of State to use its successful rewards program to target wildlife traffickers globally and to

combat international crime networks, including known terrorist organizations.

We commend you and Representative Castro for introducing this bill, and we urge all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support it.

Sincerely,

KITTY BLOCK,
Acting President &
CEO, The Humane
Society of the United
States.

SARA AMUNDSON,
President, Humane Society
Legislative
Fund.

TERESA M. TELECKY,
PH.D.,
Vice President, Wildlife
Humane Society
International.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 17th anniversary of September 11. It was a stark reminder of the danger terrorism poses to the Nation every single day.

The district I represent, Staten Island and South Brooklyn, which is home to many of New York's bravest and finest, suffered hundreds of casualties on September 11. Since then, New York remains the world's number one target for terrorism.

As a nation, we have become a more resilient and determined nation to mitigate threats against us; but as we have choked off other resources of money, terrorists have increasingly turned to wildlife trafficking as a way to fund their heinous endeavors. Any step that we can take that will lead to the capture and conviction of anyone engaged in wildlife trafficking, especially terrorists, is a step in the right direction.

Reports indicate that crimes related to illegal wildlife trafficking generate billions of dollars a year. These illicit funds turn into terrorist financing, fuel instability, and help arm groups in Africa.

The prices that wildlife traffickers can fetch for hunting and ruthlessly killing animals are staggering. Conservation groups estimate that a kilogram of raw ivory can be worth as much as \$2,100, while a kilogram of rhino horn can be worth \$65,000.

I am confident that the Foreign Affairs Committee and the House of Representatives will continue to fight against this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my chairman, Chairman ROYCE, for his support on this bill and the ranking member and my colleague from New York, ELIOT ENGEL. I thank my friend, Congressman CASTRO, for co-leading with me, and I thank the House leadership for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee, especially Meg Gallagher and Sean O'Neill, who put much work into this act.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), a cosponsor of this bill and, as I said before, a very valued House Foreign Affairs Committee member.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his leadership in this.

I, too, rise in support of H.R. 6197. It is a bill that will combat the illegal wildlife trade by authorizing rewards for information on wildlife traffickers through the State Department's Rewards for Justice program.

First, I want to thank the cosponsors, Representatives DONOVAN and CASTRO, for their work on this bipartisan legislation, along with Chairman ROYCE, who has dedicated his career to helping animals in faraway places.

Wildlife trafficking generates over \$10 billion, annually, for transnational criminal networks. As such, it not only decimates endangered wildlife species, but it also threatens security and fuels corruption.

H.R. 6197 gives the State Department another tool to go after wildlife traffickers, and it positively complements the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, which recognizes wildlife trafficking as a serious crime.

Together, these two efforts will fuel a multipronged, coordinated approach to combating the illegal wildlife trade and will help to bring the perpetrators to justice.

As an advocate for wildlife protections, I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it today and end this wildlife trafficking practice.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me say in closing, I want to again thank Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. CASTRO for authoring this bill and Chairman ROYCE for his extraordinary leadership in efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

It is shocking to me that in the year 2018 people still want to kill majestic animals like elephants and rhinos for their body parts. It is just disgusting.

We need to continue our support of a multipronged effort to address the poaching crisis, going after the international criminal networks that drive this illicit trade, working with other governments to establish and enforce tough laws against wildlife trafficking, partnering with local communities in the countries where animals live to make sure they have a stake in protecting wildlife, and educating consumers about the consequences of their decisions to purchase illegal wildlife products, because we really need to hit them in their pocketbooks. If people are purchasing these things, the illicit trafficking is going to continue.

□ 1830

The bipartisan legislation before us today will provide one additional tool in the fight against wildlife trafficking, and I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a former district attorney like DAN DONOVAN can tell you, if you are trying to get the attention of a thug, there is nothing like a reward on your head to create real fear for that terrorist or that criminal.

We want wildlife traffickers to know the fear of being hunted. It is time we send the message to wildlife traffickers around the world that the United States will use every tool at our disposal to stop them and to take them down.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6197.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5923, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3186, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 4689, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

WALNUT GROVE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5923) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain public lands in Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 3, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 394]

YEAS—379

Abraham	Balderson	Bergman
Aderholt	Banks (IN)	Beyer
Aguilar	Barr	Bilirakis
Allen	Barragán	Bishop (GA)
Amodei	Barton	Bishop (MI)
Arrington	Bass	Bishop (UT)
Babin	Beatty	Black
Bacon	Bera	Blum

Blumenauer	Foxx	Loudermilk
Blunt Rochester	Frankel (FL)	Love
Bonamici	Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal
Bost	Fudge	Lowey
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gabbard	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Gaetz	Luetkemeyer
Brat	Gallagher	Lujan Grisham, M.
Brooks (AL)	Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	MacArthur
Brown (MD)	Garrett	Maloney,
Brownley (CA)	Gianforte	Carolyn B.
Buchanan	Gibbs	Marchant
Buck	Gohmert	Marino
Bucshon	Gomez	Marshall
Budd	Gonzalez (TX)	Mast
Burgess	Goodlatte	Matsui
Bustos	Godwell	McCarthy
Byrne	Gowdy	McClintock
Calvert	Granger	McCollum
Capuano	Graves (GA)	McEachin
Carbajal	Graves (LA)	McGovern
Cárdenas	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	McKinley
Carter (GA)	Green, Gene	McMorris
Carter (TX)	Griffith	Rodgers
Cartwright	Grijalva	McNerney
Castor (FL)	Grothman	McSally
Castro (TX)	Guthrie	Meadows
Chabot	Hanabusa	Meeks
Cheney	Handel	Messer
Chu, Judy	Harper	Mitchell
Clark (MA)	Harris	Moolenaar
Clarke (NY)	Hartzer	Mooney (WV)
Clay	Hastings	Moore
Cleaver	Heck	Moulton
Cloud	Hensarling	Mullin
Clyburn	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)
Coffman	Higgins (LA)	Nadler
Cohen	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano
Cole	Hill	Neal
Collins (GA)	Himes	Newhouse
Collins (NY)	Hollingsworth	Noem
Comer	Hudson	Norcross
Comstock	Huffman	Nunes
Conaway	Huizenga	O'Halleran
Connolly	Hultgren	Olson
Cook	Issa	Palazzo
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Correa	Jayapal	Palmer
Costa	Jeffries	Panetta
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Pascrell
Courtney	Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Payne
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Perlmutter
Crist	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Peters
Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Peterson
Culberson	Jordan	Pingree
Cummings	Joyce (OH)	Pocan
Curbelo (FL)	Kaptur	Poe (TX)
Curtis	Katko	Poliquin
Davidson	Keating	Polis
Davis (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Posey
Davis, Danny	Kelly (MS)	Quigley
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Raskin
DeFazio	Kennedy	Ratcliffe
DeGette	Khanna	Reed
Delaney	Kihuen	Reichert
DeLauro	Kildee	Rice (NY)
DelBene	Kilmer	Richmond
Demings	Kind	Roby
Denham	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
DeSaulnier	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Rogers (KY)
Deutch	Knight	Rokita
Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Rooney, Francis
Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Doggett	Kustoff (TN)	Rosen
Donovan	Labrador	Roskam
Doyle, Michael F.	LaHood	Rothfus
Duffy	LaMalfa	Roybal-Allard
Duncan (SC)	Lamb	Royce (CA)
Duncan (TN)	Lance	Ruiz
Dunn	Langevin	Ruppersberger
Emmer	Larsen (WA)	Rush
Engel	Larson (CT)	Russell
Españillat	Latta	Rutherford
Estes (KS)	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)
Esty (CT)	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
Evans	Lee	Sarbanes
Faso	Lesko	Scalise
Ferguson	Levin	Schakowsky
Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)	Schiff
Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)	Schneider
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Schrader
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Schweikert
Foster	LoBiondo	Scott (VA)
	Loebsock	Scott, Austin
	Long	

Scott, David	Swalwell (CA)	Walberg
Sensenbrenner	Takano	Walden
Serrano	Tenney	Walker
Sessions	Thompson (CA)	Walorski
Sewell (AL)	Thompson (MS)	Waters, Maxine
Sherman	Thompson (PA)	Watson Coleman
Shimkus	Thornberry	Weber (TX)
Shuster	Tipton	Webster (FL)
Simpson	Titus	Welch
Smith (AL)	Tonko	Westrup
Sires	Torres	Westerman
Smith (MO)	Trott	Williams
Smith (NE)	Tsongas	Wilson (SC)
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Wittman
Smith (TX)	Valadao	Womack
Smith (WA)	Vargas	Woodall
Soto	Veasey	Yarmuth
Stefanik	Vela	Yoder
Stewart	Velázquez	Yoho
Stivers	Visclosky	Young (IA)
Suozzi	Wagner	Zeldin

NAYS—3

Amash	Biggs	Massie
Adams	Lamborn	Rooney, Thomas J.
Barletta	Lofgren	Ross
Blackburn	Lynch	Rouzer
Brady (PA)	Maloney, Sean	Sanford
Butterfield	McCaul	Shea-Porter
Cicilline	Meng	Smucker
Ellison	Nolan	Speier
Eshoo	Norman	Taylor
Gottheimer	O'Rourke	Turner
Gutiérrez	Pearce	Walters, Mimi
Hice, Jody B.	Pelosi	Walz
Holding	Pittenger	Wasserman
Hoyer	Price (NC)	Schultz
Hunter	Renacci	Wilson (FL)
Hurd	Rice (SC)	Young (AK)
Jones	Rohrabacher	

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 394.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CALIFORNIA FIRES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California and the West, as has become all too frequent, have experienced devastating fires this year. The loss of life and damage to property has been immense, and we are just partially through the fire season.

Our firefighters, in particular, whether they are U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire, volunteers, contractors, or municipal, have worked hard and sacrificed to protect the communities and resources, such as the firefighters I saw in northern California all the way up from Los Angeles County.

At the peak of California's summer fires, there were more than 14,000 firefighters from 17 States joined in this effort. The work is brutal. It is hot, smoky, tiring, and there are few breaks, if any. These recent fires took a heavy toll on these men and women.

In July, the Ferguson fire took the lives of Braden Varney and Captain

Brian Hughes, both killed while battling flames near Yosemite National Park.

Later that month, the Mendocino Complex fires, on record as the largest wildfire in our State's history, burning more than 459,000 acres, took the life of Battalion Chief Matthew Burchett from Utah, who died after he was injured while working on an active portion of the Ranch fire.

The Carr fire in my district was one of the most severe fires our State has ever seen. It devastated 229,000 acres, destroying nearly 1,100 homes, and took the lives of eight people, including three firefighters and one utility lineman: Jeremy Stoke, Don Smith, Andrew Brake, and Jay Ayeta.

This fire was so large and hot that it created its own weather system, including a fire tornado the size of three football fields with winds up to 165 miles an hour created by the fire, leaving families with little time to find their way through bottleneck traffic to safety.

Tragically, the fast-growing flames entrapped four residents unable to escape their homes in time, including Daniel Bush of Keswick, as well as Melody Bledsoe and her two great-grandchildren, James and Emily Roberts.

As the flames continued, more than 5,000 firefighters and emergency personnel put their lives on the line battling the fire, at times working more than 24-hour shifts.

Some of these individuals, as local residents, lost their own homes in the flames, yet they spent weeks protecting others. The courage of these men and women in some of the darkest times of these affected areas will long be remembered.

I thank my colleagues from California, together today for our support of each other. We have all felt this each in our own way as still more fires rage on right now throughout our State.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that the House observe a moment of silence for all of those who lost their lives in these terrible fires and to stand in solidarity with the many individuals who are now starting the long, painful process of rebuilding their lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). Will all Members please rise for a moment of silence.

EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3186) to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 2, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 395]

YEAS—383

Abraham	Davis (CA)	Jenkins (WV)
Aderholt	Davis, Danny	Johnson (GA)
Aguliar	Davis, Rodney	Johnson (LA)
Allen	DeFazio	Johnson (OH)
Amodei	DeGette	Johnson, E. B.
Arrington	Delaney	Johnson, Sam
Babin	DeLauro	Jordan
Bacon	DelBene	Joyce (OH)
Balderson	Demings	Kaptur
Banks (IN)	Denham	Katko
Barr	DeSaulnier	Keating
Barragán	DesJarlais	Kelly (IL)
Barton	Deutch	Kelly (MS)
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Beatty	Dingell	Kennedy
Bera	Doggett	Khanna
Bergman	Donovan	Kihuen
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Kildee
Bilirakis	F.	Kilmer
Bishop (GA)	Duffy	Kind
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (SC)	King (IA)
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (TN)	King (NY)
Black	Dunn	Kinzinger
Blum	Emmer	Knight
Blumenauer	Engel	Krishnamoorthi
Blunt Rochester	Españillat	Kuster (NH)
Bonamici	Estes (KS)	Kustoff (TN)
Bost	Esty (CT)	Labrador
Boyle, Brendan	Evans	LaHood
F.	Faso	LaMalfa
Brady (TX)	Ferguson	Lamb
Brat	Fitzpatrick	Lamborn
Brooks (AL)	Fleischmann	Lance
Brooks (IN)	Flores	Langevin
Brown (MD)	Portenberry	Larsen (WA)
Brownley (CA)	Foster	Larson (CT)
Buchanan	Fox	Latta
Buck	Frankel (FL)	Lawrence
Bucshon	Frelinghuysen	Lawson (FL)
Budd	Fudge	Lee
Burgess	Gabbard	Lesko
Bustos	Gaetz	Levin
Byrne	Gallagher	Lewis (GA)
Calvert	Gallego	Lewis (MN)
Capuano	Garamendi	Lieu, Ted
Carbajal	Garrett	Lipinski
Cárdenas	Gianforte	LoBiondo
Carson (IN)	Gibbs	Loebsack
Carter (GA)	Gohmert	Long
Carter (TX)	Gomez	Loudermilk
Cartwright	Gonzalez (TX)	Love
Castor (FL)	Goodlatte	Lowenthal
Castro (TX)	Gosar	Lowe
Chabot	Gowdy	Lucas
Cheney	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Chu, Judy	Graves (GA)	Lujan Grisham,
Clark (MA)	Graves (LA)	M.
Clarke (NY)	Graves (MO)	Luján, Ben Ray
Clay	Green, Al	MacArthur
Cleaver	Green, Gene	Maloney,
Cloud	Griffith	Carolyn B.
Clyburn	Grijalva	Marchant
Coffman	Grothman	Marino
Cohen	Guthrie	Marshall
Cole	Hanabusa	Massie
Collins (GA)	Handel	Mast
Collins (NY)	Harper	Matsui
Comer	Harris	McCarthy
Comstock	Hartzler	McCaul
Conaway	Hastings	McClintock
Connolly	Heck	McCollum
Cook	Hensarling	McEachin
Cooper	Herrera Beutler	McGovern
Correa	Higgins (LA)	McHenry
Costa	Higgins (NY)	McKinley
Costello (PA)	Hill	McMorris
Courtney	Himes	Rodgers
Cramer	Hollingsworth	McNerney
Crawford	Hoyer	McSally
Crist	Hudson	Meadows
Crowley	Huffman	Meeks
Cuellar	Huizenga	Messer
Culberson	Hultgren	Mitchell
Cummings	Jackson Lee	Moolenaar
Curbelo (FL)	Jayapal	Mooney (WV)
Curtis	Jeffries	Moore
Davidson	Jenkins (KS)	Moulton

Mullin	Roskam	Tenney
Murphy (FL)	Rothfus	Thompson (CA)
Nadler	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)
Napolitano	Royce (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Neal	Ruiz	Thornberry
Newhouse	Ruppersberger	Tipton
Noem	Rush	Titus
Norcross	Russell	Tonko
Nunes	Rutherford	Torres
O'Halleran	Ryan (OH)	Trott
Olson	Sánchez	Tsongas
Palazzo	Sarbanes	Upton
Pallone	Scalise	Valadao
Palmer	Schakowsky	Vargas
Panetta	Schiff	Veasey
Pascrell	Schneider	Vela
Paulsen	Schrader	Velázquez
Payne	Schweikert	Vislosky
Perlmutter	Scott (VA)	Wagner
Perry	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Peters	Scott, David	Walden
Peterson	Sensenbrenner	Walker
Pingree	Serrano	Walorski
Pocan	Sessions	Watson Coleman
Poe (TX)	Sewell (AL)	Weber (TX)
Poliquin	Sherman	Webster (FL)
Polis	Shimkus	Welch
Posey	Shuster	Wenstrup
Quigley	Shimpon	Westerman
Raskin	Sinema	Williams
Ratcliffe	Sires	Wilson (FL)
Reed	Smith (MO)	Wilson (SC)
Reichert	Smith (NE)	Wittman
Rice (NY)	Smith (NJ)	Womack
Richmond	Smith (TX)	Woodall
Roby	Smith (WA)	Yarmuth
Roe (TN)	Soto	Yoder
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Yoho
Rogers (KY)	Stewart	Young (AK)
Rokita	Stivers	Young (IA)
Rooney, Francis	Suozi	Zeldin
Ros-Lehtinen	Swalwell (CA)	
Rosen	Takano	

NAYS—2

Biggs

NOT VOTING—43

Amash	Jones	Rooney, Thomas
Adams	Lofgren	J.
Barletta	Lynch	Ross
Blackburn	Maloney, Sean	Rouzer
Brady (PA)	Meng	Sanford
Butterfield	Nolan	Shea-Porter
Ciçilline	Norman	Smucker
Ellison	O'Rourke	Speier
Eshoo	Pearce	Taylor
Gottheimer	Gutiérrez	Turner
Hice, Jody B.	Pittenger	Walters, Mimi
Holding	Price (NC)	Walz
Hunter	Renacci	Wasserman
Hurd	Rice (SC)	Schultz
Issa	Rohrabacher	Waters, Maxine

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING EARLY REPAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WITHIN NORTHPORT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4689) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr.

GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 1, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

YEAS—378

Abraham	Davis, Danny	Johnson (OH)
Aguilar	Davis, Rodney	Johnson, E. B.
Allen	DeFazio	Johnson, Sam
Amodei	DeGette	Jordan
Arrington	Delaney	Joyce (OH)
Babin	DeLauro	Kaptur
Bacon	DelBene	Katko
Balderson	Demings	Keating
Banks (IN)	Denham	Kelly (IL)
Barr	DeSaulnier	Kelly (MS)
Barragán	DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)
Barton	Deutch	Kennedy
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Khanna
Beatty	Dingell	Kihuen
Bera	Doggett	Kildee
Bergman	Donovan	Kilmer
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Kind
Biggs	F.	King (IA)
Bilirakis	Duffy	King (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (TN)	Knight
Bishop (UT)	Dunn	Krishnamoorthi
Black	Emmer	Kuster (NH)
Blum	Engel	Kustoff (TN)
Blumenauer	Españillat	Labrador
Blunt Rochester	Estes (KS)	LaHood
Bonamici	Esty (CT)	LaMalfa
Bost	Evans	Lamb
Boyle, Brendan	Faso	Lamborn
F.	Ferguson	Lance
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Langevin
Brat	Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Latta
Brooks (IN)	Fortenberry	Lawrence
Brown (MD)	Foster	Lawson (FL)
Brownley (CA)	Fox	Lee
Buchanan	Frankel (FL)	Lesko
Buck	Frelinghuysen	Levin
Bueshon	Fudge	Lewis (GA)
Budd	Gabbard	Lewis (MN)
Burgess	Gaetz	Lieu, Ted
Bustos	Gallagher	Lipinski
Byrne	Gallego	LoBiondo
Calvert	Garamendi	Loebsack
Capuano	Garrett	Long
Carbajal	Gianforte	Loudermilk
Cárdenas	Gibbs	Love
Carson (IN)	Gohmert	Lowenthal
Carter (GA)	Gomez	Lowe
Carter (TX)	Gonzalez (TX)	Lucas
Cartwright	Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer
Castor (FL)	Gosar	Lujan Grisham,
Castro (TX)	Gowdy	M.
Chabot	Granger	Luján, Ben Ray
Cheney	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Chu, Judy	Graves (LA)	Maloney
Clark (MA)	Graves (MO)	Carolyn B.
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al	Marchant
Clay	Green, Gene	Marino
Cleaver	Griffith	Marshall
Cloud	Grijalva	Massie
Clyburn	Grothman	Mast
Coffman	Guthrie	Matsui
Cohen	Hanabusa	McCarthy
Cole	Handel	McCaul
Collins (GA)	Harper	McClintock
Collins (NY)	Harris	McCollum
Comer	Hartzler	McEachin
Comstock	Hastings	McGovern
Conaway	Heck	McHenry
Connolly	Hensarling	McKinley
Cook	Herrera Beutler	McMorris
Cooper	Higgins (LA)	Rodgers
Correa	Higgins (NY)	McNerney
Costa	Hill	McSally
Costello (PA)	Himes	Meadows
Courtney	Hollingsworth	Meeks
Cramer	Hoyer	Messer
Crawford	Hudson	Mitchell
Crist	Huffman	Moolenaar
Crowley	Huizenga	Mooney (WV)
Cuellar	Hultgren	Moore
Culberson	Jackson Lee	Moulton
Cummings	Jayapal	Mullin
Curbelo (FL)	Jeffries	Murphy (FL)
Curtis	Jenkins (KS)	Nadler
Davidson	Johnson (GA)	Napolitano
Davis (CA)	Johnson (LA)	Neal

Newhouse	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Noem	Ruppersberger	Thompson (PA)
Norcross	Rush	Thornberry
Nunes	Russell	Tipton
Palazzo	Rutherford	Titus
Pallone	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
Palmer	Sánchez	Torres
Panetta	Sarbanes	Trott
Pascarell	Scalise	Tsongas
Paulsen	Schakowsky	Upton
Payne	Schiff	Valadao
Perlmutter	Schneider	Vargas
Perry	Schrader	Veasey
Peters	Schweikert	Vela
Peterson	Scott (VA)	Visclosky
Pingree	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Pocan	Scott, David	Walberg
Poe (TX)	Sensenbrenner	Walden
Poliquin	Serrano	Walker
Polis	Sessions	Walorski
Posey	Sewell (AL)	Waters, Maxine
Quigley	Shimkus	Watson Coleman
Raskin	Shuster	Weber (TX)
Ratcliffe	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Reed	Sinema	Welch
Reichert	Sires	Wenstrup
Rice (NY)	Smith (MO)	Westerman
Richmond	Smith (NE)	Williams
Roby	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Roe (TN)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rogers (AL)	Smith (WA)	Wittman
Rogers (KY)	Soto	Womack
Rokita	Stefanik	Woodall
Rooney, Francis	Stewart	Yarmuth
Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Yoder
Rosen	Suozzi	Yoho
Roskam	Swalwell (CA)	Young (AK)
Rothfus	Takano	Young (IA)
Roybal-Allard	Tenney	Zeldin
Royce (CA)	Thompson (CA)	

NAYS—1

Amash
NOT VOTING—49

Adams	Jones	Rohrabacher
Aderholt	Larson (CT)	Rooney, Thomas
Barletta	Lofgren	J.
Blackburn	Lynch	Ross
Brady (PA)	Maloney, Sean	Rouzer
Butterfield	Meng	Sanford
Cicilline	Nolan	Shea-Porter
Ellison	Norman	Sherman
Eshoo	O'Halleran	Smucker
Gottheimer	O'Rourke	Speier
Gutiérrez	Olson	Taylor
Hice, Jody B.	Pearce	Turner
Holding	Pelosi	Velázquez
Hunter	Pittenger	Walters, Mimi
Hurd	Price (NC)	Walz
Issa	Renacci	Wasserman
Jenkins (WV)	Rice (SC)	Schultz

□ 1919

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2926

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 2926, a bill originally introduced by Representative Meehan of Pennsylvania, for the purposes of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6417

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 6417.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 6776, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. YODER, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-948) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause I, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPEALING PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ALCOHOL MANUFACTURING ON INDIAN LANDS

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5317) to repeal section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5317

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ALCOHOL MANUFACTURING ON INDIAN LANDS.

Section 2141 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 251) is repealed.

SEC. 2. NO EFFECT ON TAXATION OR STATE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE ALCOHOL WITHIN STATE BORDERS.

(a) NO EFFECT ON TAXATION.—Nothing in section 1 or the repeal made by section 1 shall affect State or Federal taxation.

(b) STATE AUTHORITY UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in section 1 or the repeal made by section 1 shall diminish, enlarge, or otherwise affect a State's authority to regulate the importation and sale of alcoholic beverages within its own borders, including State authority over the manufacture, distribution, transportation, or sale of intoxicating liquors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying thank you to the members of the Natural Resources Committee and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping move this bill forward in a truly bipartisan manner.

My bill, H.R. 5317, repeals the antiquated 19th century law—from 1834, to be exact—that prohibits distilleries on Tribal lands. This prohibition was enacted at a time when the Federal Government took a more paternalistic stance with Indian Tribes. While many of the provisions in the larger statute have since been repealed, somehow the distillery prohibition remains.

This issue came to my attention from the Chehalis Tribe from my home in southwest Washington. The Chehalis began the permitting process for a new economic development project on reservation land, which includes the construction and operation of a distillery.

In the midst of the project, they were made aware of the 1834 law from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who suggested that the Tribe move their project off their land or contact their Member of Congress and change the law. When they contacted me and told me what they were up against, I got to work.

I am pleased to put this bill forward today to help place Indian Tribes on equal footing with non-Tribal citizens by allowing them to pursue the very same economic opportunities as everybody else. This repeal enables Tribes to diversify their economic investments and helps provide jobs not just for Tribes, but for neighboring communities as well.

This is a matter of fairness, Mr. Speaker. Washington, D.C., shouldn't be in the business of telling Indian Country it cannot engage in a business that is allowed everywhere else and is actually helping many neighboring areas, in terms of revitalizing their local economy.

Lastly, and to be clear, while this bill provides additional opportunities for Tribes, it does not provide special treatment. Tribes will still be required to follow State and Federal liquor laws and regulations, just as they currently do for breweries and wineries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5317 is simple and straightforward. It repeals an antiquated law that stands in the way of a Tribal economic development project.

The law in question dates back to 1834, and it prohibits the operation of a distillery on Indian lands. On their face, these types of outdated laws may seem trivial, but they have real-world consequences.

The Chehalis Tribe in Washington began the permitting process for the construction and operation of an economic development project, which includes a craft distillery, when they came up against the 1834 law. The project is a great economic development opportunity, one that will create jobs and revenue not only for the Chehalis Tribe, but for the surrounding communities as well. However, in order for the Tribe to proceed with the project, the prohibition must first be removed.

Mr. Speaker, I support the goals of H.R. 5317 and urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5317, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTRA COSTA CANAL TRANSFER ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6040) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6040

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 "Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACQUIRED LAND.**—The term "acquired land" means land in Federal ownership and land over which the Federal Government holds an interest for the purpose of the construction and operation of the Contra Costa Canal, including land under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(B) the Western Area Power Administration; and

(C) the Department of Defense in the case of the Clayton Canal diversion traversing the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

(2) **CONTRA COSTA CANAL AGREEMENT.**—The term "Contra Costa Canal Agreement" means an agreement between the District and the Bureau of Reclamation to determine the legal, institutional, and financial terms surrounding the transfer of the Contra Costa Canal, including but not limited to compensation to the reclamation fund established by the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), equal to the net present value of miscellaneous revenues that the United States would otherwise derive over the 10 years following enactment of this Act from the eligible lands and facilities to be transferred, as governed by reclamation law and policy and the contracts.

(3) **CONTRA COSTA CANAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "Contra Costa Canal" means the Contra Costa Canal Unit of the Central Valley Project, which exclusively serves the Contra Costa Water District in an urban area of Contra Costa County, California.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term "Contra Costa Canal" includes pipelines, conduits, pumping plants, aqueducts, laterals, water storage and regulatory facilities, electric substations, related works and improvements, and all interests in land associated with the Contra Costa Canal Unit of the Central Valley Project in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) **EXCLUSION.**—The term "Contra Costa Canal" does not include the Rock Slough fish screen facility.

(4) **CONTRACTS.**—The term "contracts" means the existing water service contract between the District and the United States, Contract No. 175r-3401A-LTR1 (2005), Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A (1972, as amended), and any other contract or land permit involving the United States, the District, and Contra Costa Canal.

(5) **DISTRICT.**—The term "District" means the Contra Costa Water District, a political subdivision of the State of California.

(6) **ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "Rock Slough fish screen facility" means the fish screen facility at the Rock Slough intake to the Contra Costa Canal.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term "Rock Slough fish screen facility" includes the screen structure, rake cleaning system, and accessory structures integral to the screen function of the Rock Slough fish screen facility, as required under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706).

(7) **ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY TITLE TRANSFER AGREEMENT.**—The term "Rock Slough fish screen facility title transfer agreement" means an agreement between the District and the Bureau of Reclamation to—

(A) determine the legal, institutional, and financial terms surrounding the transfer of the Rock Slough fish screen facility; and

(B) ensure the continued safe and reliable operations of the Rock Slough fish screen facility.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND AND FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in consideration for the District assuming from the United States all liability for the administration, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Contra Costa Canal, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the Contra Costa Canal Agreement and subject to valid existing rights and existing recreation agreements between the Bureau of Reclamation and the East Bay Regional Park District for Contra Loma Regional Park and other local agencies within the Contra Costa Canal, the Secretary shall offer to convey and assign to the District—

(1) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to—

(A) the Contra Costa Canal; and

(B) the acquired land; and

(2) all interests reserved and developed as of the date of enactment of this Act for the Contra Costa Canal in the acquired land, including existing recreation agreements between the Bureau of Reclamation and the East Bay Regional Park District for Contra Loma Regional Park and other local agencies within the Contra Costa Canal.

(b) **ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall convey and assign to the District all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Rock Slough fish screen facility pursuant to the Rock Slough fish screen facility title transfer agreement.

(2) **COOPERATION.**—No later than 180 days after the conveyance of the Contra Costa Canal, the Secretary and the District shall enter into

good faith negotiations to accomplish the conveyance and assignment under paragraph (1).

(c) **PAYMENT OF COSTS.**—The District shall pay to the Secretary any administrative and real estate transfer costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyances and assignments under subsections (a) and (b), including the cost of any boundary survey, title search, cadastral survey, appraisal, and other real estate transaction required for the conveyances and assignments.

(d) **COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before carrying out the conveyances and assignments under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable requirements under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) any other law applicable to the Contra Costa Canal or the acquired land.

(2) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this Act modifies or alters any obligations under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CONTRACTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act affects—

(1) the application of the reclamation laws to water delivered to the District pursuant to any contract with the Secretary; or

(2) subject to subsection (b), the contracts.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTS.**—The Secretary and the District may modify the contracts as necessary to comply with this Act.

(c) **LIABILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the United States shall not be liable for damages arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Contra Costa Canal or the acquired land.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The United States shall continue to be liable for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by any employee or agent of the United States before the date of the conveyance and assignment under section 3(a), consistent with chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”).

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this Act increases the liability of the United States beyond the liability provided under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

If the conveyance and assignment authorized by section 3(a) is not completed by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes the status of the conveyance and assignment;

(2) describes any obstacles to completing the conveyance and assignment; and

(3) specifies an anticipated date for completion of the conveyance and assignment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6040 would transfer the Contra Costa Canal to the Contra Costa County Water District. Contra Costa seeks to enclose the earthen canal to increase water supply availability and improve public safety.

Officials in the region have documented 81 instances where individuals have drowned from falling into the canal, but, currently, Contra Costa faces financial and bureaucratic challenges to conducting this important upgrade because it doesn't have title to the canal.

This bill would allow local water users who best understand the unique challenges of the area to determine what is right for them. H.R. 6040 is not only advantageous to local beneficiaries, but it is also a relief to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), the author of this legislation.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

First, I would like to thank the Contra Costa Water District and the Bureau of Reclamation for their support and guidance in putting this bill together. I would also like to thank Senators FEINSTEIN and HARRIS for carrying this bill in the Senate.

The bill transfers ownership of the Contra Costa Canal from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Contra Costa Water District.

□ 1930

The Contra Costa Water District currently operates and maintains the canal system as part of its infrastructure for providing water to half a million people. However, the Bureau of Reclamation still owns the canal, which it began building in 1937.

The transfer of the canal to local ownership will allow Contra Costa Water District to invest in much-needed upgrades, repairs, and to provide safety and environmental benefits to its customers.

Contra Costa Water District intends to invest an estimated \$650 million to enclose the pipe, which will mitigate flood risk to the surrounding community, extend the useful life of this infrastructure for another 80 years, and prevent drownings, which currently average about one per year.

I appreciate that the Contra Costa Water District has conducted extensive outreach for the local communities and has broad support in the district.

This bill also acknowledges an agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District, which will continue to maintain important recreational opportunities along the canal.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support in moving this legislation forward that will have enormous benefits for our community.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank MARK DESAULNIER for introducing this bill.

This legislation will allow the Contra Costa Water District to assume control over the Contra Costa Canal. It will make important safety improvements by enclosing the waterway to protect against accidental drownings. As Mr. GIANFORTE indicated, there have been 81 drownings.

Now, if you look at the canals: It is a hot day. They look refreshing. It looks safe. It is not. It is very, very dangerous. Even the best swimmers can drown in those conditions.

It will also improve both the water supply and the land around the canal for recreational use. Additionally, it will upgrade the fish screening equipment to better protect endangered species.

Title transfers such as this will reduce the backlog for repairing and upgrading infrastructure and may reduce duplicative Federal approvals. These type of water projects are the kind of pragmatic policymaking that we should be focusing on on a bipartisan basis.

This bill is one of many pieces of legislation that is necessary to maintain the health of the California delta, which supports the livelihoods of farmers, businesses, and families in my district.

Above all, we need policies that focus on water efficiency and resilience. This program will increase the resilience of the canals. This is forward-thinking legislation that concentrates on mitigating increasing damage from climate change.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, the Contra Costa Canal serves as a primary water delivery system for 500,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County, California. The canal system is currently too exposed, resulting in safety hazards, degraded water quality and supply, and increased maintenance costs.

Tragically, 81 people have drowned in the canal since it became operational.

H.R. 6040 will transfer ownership of the Contra Costa Canal from the Department of the Interior to the Contra Costa Water District so the district can upgrade this 81-year-old water infrastructure with a secure, buried pipeline.

In addition to the many benefits of this legislation to the people of the county, transferring ownership of the canal will also benefit wildlife. The planned updates to the system will reduce unnecessary water losses from

seepage in unlined portions of the canal and prevent further losses from evaporation. Preventing water loss will ensure that additional water is delivered to national wildlife refuges in California.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6040, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMEMBERING THE ATTACK ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has been 6 years since the attack on the American consulate in Benghazi and ask that we reflect on the four patriotic Americans who lost their lives:

Petty Officer First Class Glen Doherty and Senior Chief Petty Officer Tyrone Woods were Navy SEALs, doing what they loved, serving as security personnel in Libya and working to protect United States diplomats.

Ambassador Chris Stevens and Staff Sergeant Sean Smith served for a combined 31 years with the U.S. State Department.

In honor of their memory, I am asking that our colleagues cosponsor the Gold Medal Act, H.R. 2315, to formally recognize these four men with the Congressional Gold Medal for their heroism and dedication to our country.

I am asking that every Member of the House think about their 12 grueling hours of close-quarters combat, the crack of those AK-47s firing at them and next to each one of them, the indirect fire that their compound was taking, the fires that burned their bodies, the unanswered calls for help. Think about their lifesaving actions on behalf of others and the fact that it cost them their own lives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5895) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent Resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5895.

DHS TRANSFER OF \$10 MILLION FROM FEMA TO ICE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Florence is possibly the most devastating hurricane to hit the Carolinas in a lifetime. Let us prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

As global climate change makes extreme weather events more likely and more dangerous, the Trump administration is burying its head in the sand. A month ago, FEMA released an internal review of its response to Hurricane Maria, admitting that, among other things, when Hurricane Maria struck, FEMA's warehouses in Puerto Rico were basically empty.

Then yesterday we find out that the Trump administration diverted \$10 million from FEMA to ICE in order to boost its detention program and lock up children in cages away from their parents and babies from their mothers.

This is outrageous. It is just another example of how callous the Trump administration is and how misplaced its priorities are.

I hope that FEMA and the Trump administration do better in the Carolinas because Hurricane Florence is going to be devastating.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to thank Honor Flight South Florida for its work to recognize outstanding veterans of our Armed Forces. This Saturday, September 15, Honor Flight South Florida, in conjunction with the Miami International Airport, will again lead a group of these brave veterans on their visit to our Nation's capital.

Since its inception in 2005, the mission of Honor Flight has been to welcome our heroes to Washington so that these patriots may visit their memorials.

Today, the Honor Flight network has 140 regional hubs across the United States, each working tirelessly to pay tribute to these amazing Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the wife of a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran and step-mother and mother-in-law to Marine Corps aviators, I am familiar with the courage and the resolve that is required to dedicate one's life to the

service of others. I am so thankful for all the veterans' devotion to our Nation, as well as the great work of organizations like Honor Flight.

We must never forget the contributions these brave men and women have made to our country, and I wish Honor Flight and the vets they serve the utmost success in the years to come.

PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the efforts by the Trump administration and this Republican Congress to strip health insurance coverage from millions of Americans.

Before the Affordable Care Act, greedy insurance companies locked out people with preexisting conditions like it was nothing.

A Federal court is hearing a case, *Texas v. United States*, which could dismantle several key health protections, one of which is protections for individuals with preexisting conditions.

Trump's Justice Department refuses to defend existing law, which is unprecedented, and shirks its responsibility to defend the laws Congress has passed. This could hurt millions of people.

In the United States, there are 130 million people with preexisting conditions. In Ohio alone, 42 percent of the population has preexisting conditions. In a recent poll, 75 percent of the public, regardless of party affiliation, said protections for people with preexisting conditions are very important.

This is what the American people want and need. As a Congress, we are charged to represent the interests of the people; to be for the people, not the big insurance companies, not the big pharmaceutical companies that would profit even more from a lopsided healthcare system.

Every American life matters. Every single one of them.

IMPENDING CRISIS IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to again bring attention to the impending crisis in Idlib province, Syria.

Last week I spoke in the well of the House about the great work our Kansans and Americans are doing in support of the innocent Syrian people, many of them with no connection to Syria other than seeing years of pointless death and mayhem and wanting to help the Syrian people cope with their country's destruction and return to their families, their villages, their work.

I learned today that many of those Syrians that my fellow Americans support are now only a few kilometers away from the frontlines of the Assad-backed war machine.

The U.S. must continue to support Turkey's push to achieve a diplomatic solution to at least delay an assault on Idlib.

I believe the use of chemical weapons should not be the only trigger for an American response, but that we can no longer stand by as scores of innocents are massacred by the brutal dictator and his Russian agents.

I call on the President to strengthen his resolve against Assad's barbarous acts and to continue to support the innocent Syrian people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER ELIJAH HARNUM

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of Christopher Elijah Harnum.

On November 13, 2010, Chris was a victim of gun violence, a 14-year-old boy shot through the stomach as he played with his friends.

Chris spent over a year in the hospital recovering from his injuries. As he recovered, Chris devoted his life to serving others. Chris worked to become an EMT so that he could help those in need.

In the aftermath of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas, Chris formed Vegas Out of Ashes, a nonprofit devoted to helping those victims. Chris personally collected donations, purchased water and goods, promoted blood drives, and visited local hospitals.

Through it all, Chris struggled with PTSD and depression from his own trauma. The events of October 1 reopened Chris' wounds, and as he worked tirelessly to help those suffering around him, Chris suffered himself.

On August 19, 2018, Chris lost his battle against depression.

Today, I honor Chris as a fighter, who rose from his own ashes to put the needs of others above his own, who exuded love through his own pain and who embodied the best of what it means to be a Nevadan, a Las Vegan, and an American.

□ 1945

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than a century ago, one of the most horrific genocides in history took place as the world was fixated on the Great War raging in Europe.

The Ottoman Empire and its successor state, the modern Republic of Turkey, have always denied the atrocities they committed against the Armenian people.

For too long, our own government has played along with Turkey. We have

allowed politics to blind us from the mass murder of 1½ million innocent Armenians by the Ottoman Turks. We must officially recognize this horrific crime to prevent similar events from occurring again. This also means pressuring the Turks to acknowledge their past sins.

Turkey, under dictator Erdogan, has proven to be an oppressor of his own people. Today, we see him adopt similar brutality against the Kurds that was applied to the Armenians more than a century ago.

This behavior is unacceptable by a NATO member and a supposed American ally.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING VEL R. PHILLIPS

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House is going to take up and, hopefully, pass legislation that I have introduced to honor a Wisconsin hero and one of my she-roes, Vel R. Phillips. The bill would designate a post office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in her honor.

Vel was the first of so many things: the first African American and the first woman to become an alderman in the city of Milwaukee; the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School; the first African American judge in Milwaukee County; the first and only African American to win election statewide in Wisconsin.

But her life and contributions cannot simply be summed up by merely adding up her many firsts. Such an approach gives short shrift of her local and national impact. For you see, Mr. Speaker, she was a soldier for social justice in the national movement for desegregation in housing in the open housing movement.

I first met Vel when I was 16 years old, and she was the judge in an oratorical contest. That encounter has made a lifelong impact on me.

Vel passed away earlier this year in her 90s, but her legacy of love, service, and commitment lives on.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the tragic epidemic that impacts too many Montanans and Americans.

Suicide rates are increasing across the country. On average, a Montanan dies by suicide every 33 hours. Suicide is now the eighth leading cause of death in Montana. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported a 30 percent increase in suicide rates in the last 20 years, with nearly 45,000 Americans taking their own lives in 2016.

Veterans account for almost 20 percent of all suicides in the United

States. Suicide rates amongst farmers have been increasing.

We, however, can reverse the trajectory of one of the leading causes of death in this country.

There is good news coming out of Montana. The Billings Clinic, which I recently toured, announced it will launch Montana's first psychiatric residency program. This will expand access to mental healthcare for our more rural areas.

I speak out today during Suicide Prevention Week because suicide is preventable. Access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide saves lives.

HONORING SERGEANT GERALD TIMMANN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Sergeant Gerald Timmann.

Sergeant Timmann is a Vietnam combat veteran from Leetonia, Ohio, who served in the 101st Airborne from 1967 to 1969. He spent 13 grueling months in Vietnam's jungles and was exposed to some of the worst battles in the conflict.

Ten days prior to the end of his tour, Sergeant Timmann was hit by a grenade during combat, causing him to lose both legs. Sergeant Timmann says he is forever grateful to the brave medevac helicopter crews that, under heavy fire, rescued him.

In honor of his profound bravery, Sergeant Timmann has deservedly received a number of awards, including the Purple Heart, Infantry Combat Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

Sergeant Timmann exemplifies the selfless courage of our military, and I am honored to share his story with the Nation today.

PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, and House leadership to support permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This vital program benefits millions of Americans in innumerable ways, from promoting recreational activity to contributing to our Nation's robust economy, along with furthering environmental protection.

As we rapidly approach the deadline for this crucial program, which affects 98 percent of counties here in the United States and contributes to an

economy that encompasses 1 out of 15 American jobs, I urge this Congress to take up full permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Since its establishment 50 years ago, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has greatly benefitted my home district in Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania. Treasured public lands such as Nockamixon State Park, Tyler State Park, and cherished community venues such as Hatfield Community Park are all just a few of the examples of the beneficiaries of this valuable fund.

I am encouraged by the strong bipartisan support for permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue its authorization and funding on a permanent basis.

Mr. Speaker, this must be a bipartisan priority, and we must get this done. The alternative is unacceptable.

IMPOSING CERTAIN SANCTIONS IN THE EVENT OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN A UNITED STATES ELECTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115–152)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat of foreign interference in United States elections and authorizing the United States Government to impose a range of appropriate and meaningful sanctions against foreign individuals and entities determined to have engaged in election interference.

Foreign powers have historically sought to exploit America's free and open political system. In recent years, the proliferation of digital devices and internet-based communications has created significant vulnerabilities and magnified the scope and intensity of the threat of foreign interference. To deal with this threat, I have directed the Director of National Intelligence to conduct regular assessments of any information indicating that foreign election interference has taken place. I have also directed the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct evaluations of the effects of any such interference that tar-

geted election infrastructure or campaign-related infrastructure, and to provide updates and recommendations on appropriate measures to take in response.

In the event foreign election interference is determined to have occurred, the Executive Order provides for the imposition of sanctions on foreign persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to have engaged in, sponsored, concealed, or otherwise been complicit in the interference, as well as other related persons. The Executive Order further directs the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to develop additional recommended sanctions measures, appropriately calibrated to account for the severity of the interference and any collateral effects on United States and allied financial stability and economic and security interests, targeting companies in significant economic sectors in a country whose government is determined to have engaged in or sponsored election interference.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2018.

AMERICA IS #BETTEROFFNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin tonight by offering thoughts and prayers to the communities in the path of Hurricane Florence. My home State of Kansas is no stranger to natural disasters, and we are standing with those who will be impacted in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about how we are all better off now. There has been a lot of talk lately about our country's economic recovery. Some of the debate recently has centered around when it started versus how it started. But really, it indicates one thing is real clear, that after years of stagnation, high unemployment, low wage growth, today, there is no denying that America is better off now than we were 2 years ago.

Tax reform and getting government out of the way has helped fuel this economic recovery. For 8 long years, we had an administration working against business growth. Now America has a President and Congress working to grow the economy.

In addition to our economy, progrowth policies have been championed that allow veterans, our Armed Forces, families, and small businesses in every sector and in every community to be better off now.

During this Special Order, I look forward to highlighting all the exciting things happening in my district in Kansas and around the country that are returning America to a place of strength, security, and prosperity.

Throughout the August district work period, I traveled my district discussing how Kansans are better off now thanks to legislation that enhances our economy, secures our community, and strengthens our military.

During the past month, I met with multitudes of small businesses and groups, some of which include: the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce; touring a wind farm in Pratt County; meeting with constituents at Dave's Pizza in Coldwater; learning about services provided at Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital; meeting with constituents at Hibbard's Prescription Plus in Medicine Lodge; hosted a town hall for veterans; participated in a roundtable with the Realtors of south central Kansas; celebrated the ribbon cutting of two low-income housing projects in Wichita, one specifically designated for veterans; met with constituents at Tiger Town Pizza in St. John; toured the Golden Belt Feeders in Stafford County; met with constituents at Carr Auto-Electric in Larned; visited the Offerle Co-op; spent a day in Greensburg at the Big Well Museum, the school, the senior center, the art studio, and the media center; discussed the farm bill and several other issues related to our agriculture community as I went to several county farm bureau meetings; spoke at the West Wichita Sunrise Rotary Club; and toured the Textron Aviation manufacturing facility.

I travel home to Kansas every week and during the district work period to hear from constituents. Even though there is more work to do, my latest district work period made it clear, as I spent time in the district, that individuals, families, and small businesses across our State and country are better off now.

From our economy standpoint, the numbers really speak for themselves. The unemployment rate is near an 18-year low at 3.9 percent. Youth unemployment is at the lowest level in 52 years. Female unemployment is at the lowest level in 65 years. Black and Hispanic unemployment rates are the second lowest ever recorded. Veterans recently hit the lowest unemployment in 20 years.

Last quarter, our economy grew at 4.2 percent. For perspective on that, during President Obama's term, the economy only grew at an average of 1.9 percent.

□ 2000

Last month, wages grew at the fastest rate in 9 years; consumer confidence in our economy is the highest since October 2000; and just yesterday, small business optimism surged to the highest level ever recorded, passing the record that was set during President Reagan's Presidency. Jobless claims are at the lowest rate since December 6, 1969, and this summer, the U.S. had more job openings than job seekers for the first time in history.

These numbers are great news for the millions of families across America, but these numbers didn't happen by accident. I look forward to further discussion tonight about how we are working every day to make America better off now.

At this time, I am pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK).

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, long before 2017, our Tax Code had become broken, complicated, and outdated. It no longer worked for our families or our businesses. We needed to rebuild confidence in our private sector and provide release for families. We needed to bring back America's competitive edge by giving job creators freedom from punishing high taxes. And when tax reform was signed into law last December, we accomplished that.

In our bill, we doubled the standard deduction and lowered the rate for individuals, which means that parents and families are keeping more of their money in their pockets.

We also dramatically reduced the tax rate for small businesses so they can invest in the people who keep their businesses moving. And now we want to make those cuts permanent.

The Tax Foundation estimates that implementing permanent relief will create 1.5 million new jobs and increase our GDP by 2.2 percent. Permanent tax cuts will continue to encourage the economic growth that has put our Nation back in the front of competition. It will give taxpayers room to breathe when it comes to saving for life's unexpected challenges or emergencies, and it will allow our families to save money by expanding access to new and existing savings vehicles for their children's education.

That is what tax reform is all about: allowing taxpayers to keep more money in their pockets so that they can choose what to do with their money. Americans know how to spend their money better than the government does. It is as simple as that.

I am proud of our accomplishments, because it means people can breathe easier and with confidence. But we still have work to do to ensure that our Tax Code remains competitive, innovative, and better. Tax reform is boosting our economy, and we want to add to that momentum.

So, with the bill that the Ways and Means Committee is working on, we have an opportunity to bring permanent certainty to millions of Americans, and we intend to do just that.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my dear friend from Kansas for letting me share with the American people the stories from home, Texas 22.

My home county, my home district is on the verge of coming close to 900,000 people. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has changed all of their lives in a dramatic and very important way. Texas 22 is better off now. My home county, Fort Bend County, Texas, is the most diverse county in America; 140 languages are spoken all over Texas 22.

Every time I am home, I ask people what they think about lower tax rates for their families, a 21 percent corporate tax rate, full expensing of their expenses in the same year, and an end of the death tax. They say the same thing over and over; 140 languages become one language, and that language is pure Texas.

Quote from back home:

I like these tax cuts.

Are they good?

Dang straight. I reckon I can buy a new pickup truck, provide healthcare for my employees who have back pains because their wallets in their back pockets of their Wrangler jeans are so darn heavy they are twisting their spine.

Mr. Speaker, these Texans say:

I can't understand how Democrats in the U.S. House can call these tax cuts mere crumbs.

Crumbs. Back home, they are puzzled: How can these Democrats be so out of touch with America? How can my family keeping our money be such a bad thing?

But one old boy Texan in Meadville, Texas, solved this problem. He said:

If the money I get in my pocket from keeping my money is crumbs, I am fixing to be a world record holder in the Guinness Book of World Records. I will have a mound of crumbs as big as a Texas icon, Enchanted Rock.

That rock is 640 acres big and stands 525 feet above the terrain. That is a dang big pile of crumbs.

Gary Allred owns Rosenberg Tractor right there in Fort Bend County. He has had that up and running for 32 years. Being in the tractor business, agriculture, lots of ups and downs: One year it rains; the next year it doesn't. One year it is hot; one year it is cold.

The big city is coming his way. We are growing dramatically in southeast Texas. All this growth has made his land very, very, very valuable. He knows if he has to sell his land sometime in the future, land that has been in his family now for almost 50 years, he will have to pay a death tax; and maybe his daughter, his son, his grandsons, his granddaughters won't have his dream, their tractor company in their possession.

But Gary knows now he no longer has to worry: the death tax is dead. That is because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He said:

I have guys coming in, customers, looking to buy a new tractor and all the farm implements that go with them.

He is worried because he is a hay farmer, piles and piles of hay. He is worried because these so-called crumbs he will get will be so huge, they will block out all of his hay crops. That is a big, big, big pile of crumbs.

Mr. Speaker, the final crumb story I have, again, is from an icon from Richmond, Texas. His name is Andres Novoa. He owns La Cocina Mexican restaurant. For every crumb of the Mexican food he makes, he sells, he gives two crumbs back to his local community.

He has the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in all of Fort Bend County. He raises thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars for causes like Meals on Wheels in Fort Bend County. He has raised enough money to buy two vans for Meals on Wheels. With the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, he can buy another van, a third van, for Fort Bend County Meals on Wheels.

These Texans are all excited. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act 2.0 is coming quickly. That means this great law will be permanent. It will be more competitive. And guess what. We will have more and more records in Fort Bend County of piles and piles of crumbs for the Guinness Book of World Records.

Americans are better off right now, and they will be better off in the future.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas, appreciate all of that information, talking about the positive impact that is happening all across America with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

When we talk about are you really better off now, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is one of those great examples of something that has been accomplished over the last 2 years.

The act itself just helped jump-start our economy. It repealed the ObamaCare individual mandate penalty. The standard deduction was nearly doubled, up to \$12,000 for single filers, to \$18,000 for a head of household, and to \$24,000 for joint filers.

The child tax credit for families was doubled from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and individual along with business tax rates were cut across the board for every tax bracket. That means this year a middle-class family of four in Kansas will keep an extra \$2,100 of their hard-earned money in their pocket, money they can use, save for their retirement, save for their children's college education, or maybe go out for a dinner and a movie.

The law also cut corporate rates from 35 percent, which was the fourth highest rate in the world and the highest amongst the developed world, to a competitive 21 percent, encouraging businesses to expand and to reinvest in America again. So far, more than 700 companies around the country have done just that, benefiting millions of hardworking families with bonuses, higher wages, and better benefits.

In Kansas, 24 businesses with more than 700 locations statewide have

boosted wages and benefits for tens of thousands of employees.

□ 2015

During the August work period, I was able to visit with employees at some of those companies, including Legacy Bank. Legacy Bank is a community-based bank based in Colwich, Kansas, with roots dating back to 1885. Today, Legacy Bank operates eight branches throughout my district and has 81 employees.

In July, Legacy Bank became one of the latest companies in my district to announce a midyear bonus of up to \$1,000 per employee.

In August, I met with employees and the board of directors, who told me the bonuses would not have been possible without the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Also, last month I met with workers from Textron Aviation Facilities in Wichita. In an earlier meeting, Textron officials had said the tax reforms of 2017 have strengthened the environment for aircraft sales in the United States and the outlook remains positive. Textron now has the largest backlog of orders in 8 years, supporting thousands of jobs in our community, which we proudly call the air capital of the world.

Our district is also home to the largest tax cut bonus in the country. After the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed, Wichita Railway Systems, a railroad car parts supplier, turned their tax cut into \$3,000 to \$6,000 bonuses for its employees. The Wichita Business Journal reported that these bonuses would have otherwise gone toward corporate income tax and on to the government.

During a visit there, the CEO of the small manufacturing company said employees receiving the bonus would turn right around and invest in the economy, showing how these bonuses not only benefit the workers and their families, but also the entire community.

Other employees who are better off now thanks to the tax cuts include Fidelity Bank, which announced \$1,500 bonuses for its 400 Wichita area employees. Cox Communications announced \$1,000 to \$2,000 bonuses for their 900 area employees. Mahaney Roofing in Wichita has been able to hire more employees thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. And Wichita's largest employer, Spirit AeroSystems, announced new investments in technology and training to help the rising demand in 2018.

These numbers show the economic growth and optimism happening in my State and around the country because of tax reform. And, more importantly, behind each statistic are people who are finally better off now.

Recently, my colleague Representative BRAD WENSTRUP from Ohio pointed out that the critics who proclaim that tax cuts only help billionaires could not be further from the truth. Over \$1.1 trillion in tax relief, or 77 percent of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, goes directly to families and small businesses.

Over one-half of the 2019 individual tax cuts, or \$133 billion, go to those earning under \$200,000.

Middle-income families see larger percentage reductions in their taxes than wealthier families. A typical married couple with two kids earning \$73,000 would see a tax cut of over \$2,000, a reduction in their income taxes of nearly 60 percent.

The bill didn't just help the rich. Under the new tax law, the share of taxes paid by millionaires actually increases from 19.3 percent to 19.8 percent.

Also, when American companies are doing well, workers do well. Just ask one of the 4 million workers who saw a benefit or pay raise due to the tax reform.

I would also like to point out that companies who had previously stashed money abroad are bringing it back to the United States thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Our Tax Code penalized companies that did successfully operate overseas, and we wanted to tax them. Our Tax Code wanted to tax them a second time for them to bring their money back home. So, typically, these companies would only bring about \$50 billion in earnings abroad every quarter. In the first 3 months of this year, they brought \$158 billion back to the U.S. According to Bloomberg, that is the biggest reversal on record since 1946.

In addition, dividends received from abroad totaled \$340 billion in the first 3 months of 2018, which is also a record. This money can be put to work in the United States either investing in a new plant, paying for bonuses or salary increases, paying dividends, or buying back stock. But at the end of the day, America is richer because of it, and we are all better off now.

Families from the heartland and throughout our country are also better off thanks to lower utility rates that are a direct result of the tax reform: expanded family savings programs for education and retirement; in efforts to reduce crime in our communities, including human trafficking. We have also invested \$2 billion to address school safety and mental health issues. A new Career and Technical Education Act for the 21st Century is allowing more students to pursue career and technical programs at institutions like Wichita State University Tech.

One of the things that I am seeing as I travel across the district is that we have a drastic shortage of an educated workforce to help fill these jobs, and we wanted to make sure that, in utilizing the Career and Technical Education Act, we get more people to be supplied as welders, auto mechanics, airplane mechanics, electronics technicians, and sheet metal workers.

Provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also help promote rural broadband expansion. Last month, I visited with Butler Rural Electric Co-Op, which said they are now able to provide faster internet to residents in rural parts of my district.

In June, the House passed a package of 58 bills to combat the opioid epidemic. This was the most significant effort by Congress against a single drug crisis in history, as we have invested \$4 billion to address this epidemic.

Just to talk a little bit about that epidemic, in 2016, 313 people died from an opioid overdose in Kansas, leaving thousands of family members and friends to cope with the loss. In 2018, more than 2 million Americans will suffer from an opioid addiction.

In June, when the House passed the 58 bills, we wanted to focus on this being the most significant effort by Congress to make sure that this drug crisis is addressed and resolved. Last year's spending bill that spends the \$4 billion to address this epidemic is being used to help law enforcement efforts, funding new treatment and prevention efforts and increasing inspection and surveillance to stop the flow of drugs into our country.

Human trafficking has become a major problem across the country. This year, House Republicans have passed dozens of bills to fight human trafficking, including the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act, the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, and the Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, which have been signed into law. As a result, online advertising for commercial sex trafficking has gone down by 60 to 80 percent.

In another area, in May, Congress sent the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018 to President Trump. As Speaker RYAN said, terminally ill patients and their loved ones deserve the opportunity, wherever possible, to take advantage of an offer that may provide them a chance for a longer life.

For patients who may not qualify for certain trials or who have tried other options of approved medication, this bill would allow them access to experimental treatments and therapies. After all, it should be their choice of what they do, to help them have that opportunity and the right to try.

The good news doesn't stop with our economy and with our families. Veterans and our armed services have been a priority in this Congress.

This year Congress passed the VA MISSION Act, which revolutionizes healthcare for veterans by streamlining services and ensuring veterans get the care they deserve from the VA or from their private doctor closer to home.

This is the biggest improvement in veterans healthcare in 5 years and will build on the Choice Act to fulfill our promise to veterans by allocating \$5.2 billion to pay healthcare costs through the Veterans Choice Fund, expanding eligibility in the VA's caregiver program, and improving healthcare delivery, including telemedicine, mental

health support, peer-to-peer support, and mobile deployment teams for rural and underserved veterans for routine and specialized care.

Also for veterans, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act that we passed in Congress is helping establish affordable housing communities for senior citizens and veterans, like the two that recently opened in my district. Last month, I was able to join one of those communities specifically designed for veterans for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

One veteran who participated told local media:

This is a miracle right here. God has done a lot of miracles in my life. This is one of the top ones.

Since President Trump signed the VA MISSION Act on June 6, 2018, which happens to be D-day, it has helped revolutionize healthcare for veterans by making sure that they get the options, the choices, and the right to the care that they so richly deserve.

We have also focused on: How do we help our Active-Duty military servicemembers?

We passed the National Defense Authorization Act, which invests \$700 billion in rebuilding our military. It provides our troops the largest pay raise in 9 years. It supports more aircraft, like the KC-46 tankers from McConnell Air Force Base in my district. It shot down an increase of fees in TRICARE for retirees. It allows former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor winners, and service-connected disability veterans to access the commissaries starting in 2020.

A sad note: There are 22 veterans a day who commit suicide. What we have done is, as Congress, passed five comprehensive bills to address this epidemic:

House Amendment 769 appropriates no less than \$225 million for VA mental health and suicide prevention programs;

H.R. 4635 directs the VA to emphasize peer support counselors for female veterans who, among other things, are also at risk of suicide;

H.R. 4173 directs the VA to conduct studies on outcomes and efficacy of the Veterans Crisis Line and report to Congress the results;

H.R. 2345 requires the FCC to coordinate with HHS and the VA in studying the feasibility of designing a three-digit dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; and

H.R. 918 directs the VA to furnish former members of the Armed Forces an initial mental health assessment and mental healthcare services required to treat urgent mental healthcare needs, including the risk of suicide or harm to others.

There are many things that we have accomplished. There are still more things to do.

This week, we are going to vote to give the VA the largest dollar amount in history, which includes:

\$206 million for suicide prevention outreach, for a total of \$8.6 billion for mental healthcare programs;

\$192 million for the inspector general, \$25 million above fiscal year 2018, to provide the resources needed to investigate the overwhelming number of allegations being reported with regard to waste, claims processing backlogs, and general accountability;

Fully funds family housing at \$1.6 billion, \$173 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted levels for the families of those who serve; and

\$1.8 billion to homeless veterans programs.

Overall, there are just so many positive things that have been accomplished over the last 2 years when we look at are we all better off now.

I have talked a lot about some of the impacts of the various bills that we have passed, some of the benefits that affect people in my district and people in the State of Kansas.

I have here a list numerous companies throughout the State that have taken advantage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am going to read just a few of those and a brief description of what they did.

□ 2030

The Lawrence Paper Company in Lawrence, Kansas, gave \$500 bonuses for all 300 employees and spent \$5 million for new equipment and expansion at all three locations.

Spirit AeroSystems increased investment in training and technology.

Westar Energy filed a request before the Kansas Corporation Commission to reflect that its electric rates ought to be reduced by the full amount of tax savings from the change in the Federal tax law.

AT&T offered \$1,000 bonuses for 1,500 Kansas employees.

Walmart employees at 75 different Walmart stores throughout the State received tax reform bonuses, wage increases, and expanded maternity and paternity leave.

Best Buy, which has 12 locations in Kansas, offered \$1,000 bonuses to their full-time employees and \$500 bonuses to part-time employees.

And even small businesses like Taco John's, which has 19 locations in Kansas, all full-time and part-time crew members received a \$200 after-tax bonus.

Other companies that offered benefits—may not run the normal thought of what you think about—but companies like Waste Management Incorporated, which has multiple locations in Kansas, paid \$2,000 bonuses.

I have a myriad of other companies that have taken advantage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that we have implemented, and reflect that not only are they, as companies, better off now, but their employees are better off now, as well.

In closing, altogether these actions have encouraged rapid growth in our economy, security for our families, and

support for our veterans and military. Don't get me wrong. There is more to do.

Healthcare premiums increased \$4,400 per family from 2010 to 2016. We still have too many veterans needing healthcare and jobs. There is more to do to help small businesses grow, help families save for college or retirement, and support our farmers and our manufacturers.

In the coming weeks, I am glad we will debate tax reform 2.0 to unleash another round of economic growth by protecting middle-class individuals and small business tax cuts from going up in the future, expanding educational and retirement savings options, and supporting entrepreneurs.

But today, I am proud of what we have accomplished thus far because of businesses like BG Products, Inc., based in Wichita, Kansas. The automotive maintenance supply manufacturer was established in 1971 by a group of World War II veterans and automotive industry experts. Over time, BG Products, grew from an idea to an industry leader. Its products manufactured in our community are used and sold in all 50 States, in more than 60 countries, by more than 40,000 shops, dealerships, and technicians.

However, 2 years ago, BG Products was at a crossroads, determining whether or not to expand based on the economy and the climate of government regulations. Following the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, BG Products was able to push forward with plans to expand, putting new tax savings directly toward new building projects and jobs.

In July, BG Products represented Kansas in an event honoring products that are made in America. Following their White House appearance, I visited employees at BG Products and toured their 400,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in El Dorado where we discussed their plans to expand. Finally, on August 24, BG Products broke ground on a 145,000-square-foot edition in El Dorado, investing \$24.5 million in our community and adding 21 new jobs.

This kind of expansion would not have been possible without our growing economy. Like BG Products, Inc., today our economy and our country is strong and is better off now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of my fellow Representatives who supported the various bills that we have passed over the last 2 years to help make my district, my State of Kansas, and my country stronger and better off now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of my fellow Members who spoke on the bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3798, SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC-COMPANY H.R. 5895, ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2018.

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. ESTES of Kansas), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-949) on the resolution (H. Res. 1059) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3798) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 17, 2018, through September 24, 2018, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HOLDING (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of assisting with hurricane preparedness efforts in North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of assisting with hurricane preparedness efforts in North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6203. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Chief Compliance Officer Duties and Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap

Participants; Amendments (RIN: 3038-AE56) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6204. A letter from the Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2018 Amendments) [Doc. #: AMS-CN-18-0013] received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6205. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Support of Special Events [Docket ID: DOD-2017-OS-0053] (RIN: 0790-AK05) received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6206. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's interim final rule — to amend the Small Bank Holding Company and Savings and Loan Holding Company Policy Statement and related regulations; Changes to Reporting Requirements [Docket No.: R-1619] (RIN: 7100-AF 13) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6207. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Major final rule — Single-Counterparty Credit Limits for Bank Holding Companies and Foreign Banking Organizations [Regulation YY; Docket No.: R-1534] (RIN: 7100-AE48) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6208. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's interim final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio Rule: Treatment of Certain Municipal Obligations as High-Quality Liquid Assets (RIN: 3064-AE77) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6209. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Cyber Security Incident Reporting Reliability Standards [Docket No.: RM18-2-000; Order No. 848] received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6210. A letter from the Associate Chief, Auctions and Spectrum Access Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Auctions of Upper Microwave Flexible Use Licenses for Next-Generation Wireless Services; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auctions 101 (28 GHz) and 102 (24 GHz); Bidding in Auction 101 Scheduled to Begin November 14, 2018 [AU Docket No.: 18-85] received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6211. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Battle of the Bridges, Intracoastal

Waterway; Venice, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0608] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6212. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River Miles 0.7 to 1.0, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0750] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6213. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Miles 0.0 to 0.5, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0743] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6214. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Michigan Championships; Detroit River; Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0732] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6215. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fiduciary Activities; Economic Impact Analysis (RIN: 2900-AO53/WP2010-001) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6216. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations (Rev. Proc. 2018-36) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6217. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure: Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability (Rev. Proc. 2018-45) received September 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5059. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act with respect to the registration and supervision of insurance savings and loan holding companies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-937). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6316. A bill to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration,

and for other purposes (Rept. 115-938). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6330. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to modify the method for prescribing size standards for business concerns (Rept. 115-939). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6347. A bill to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the 7(a) program to bring them into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-940). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6348. A bill to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under section 504 program to bring them into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-941). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6367. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to specify what credit is given for certain subcontractors and to provide a dispute process for non-payment to subcontractors, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-942). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6369. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-943). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6382. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report certain information to the Congress and to the President, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-944). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3398. A bill to amend the Real ID Act of 2005 to permit Freely Associated States to meet identification requirements under such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-945). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4431. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service (Rept. 115-946, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4887. A bill to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-947). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. YODER: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 6776. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-948). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1059. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3798) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protec-

tion and Affordable Act and replace it with 40 hours; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 17, 2018, through September 24, 2018 (Rept. 115-949). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on House Administration discharged from further consideration, H.R. 4431 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 6770. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide parity for outlying areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 6771. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BASS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 6772. A bill to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. COHEN:

H.R. 6773. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 6774. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to seek to determine if the Government of Iran has used certain funds received by reason of sanctions relief

pursuant to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or cash payments conveyed by the United States in early 2016 to sponsor foreign terrorist organizations, facilitate illicit narcotics activities, or conduct military operations in Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6775. A bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6777. A bill to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 6778. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing services and treatment for substance use disorders under Medicaid using telehealth services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 6779. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Drug Enforcement Administration to report certain information on distribution of opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DUNN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. YOHO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MAST, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 6780. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7521 Paula Drive in Tampa, Florida, as the "Major Andreas O'Keeffe Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 6781. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of certain mental health telehealth services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 6782. A bill to determine the feasibility of additional agreements for long-term use of existing or expanded non-Federal storage and conveyance facilities to augment Federal water supply, ecosystem, and operational flexibility benefits in certain areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONOVAN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 6783. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to confiscate interest paid on certain frozen bank accounts, to require the Secretary to confiscate certain frozen assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 6784. A bill to provide for removal of the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 States from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife published under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 6785. A bill to provide tax incentives to promote economic development in Economically Distressed Zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 6786. A bill to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in class action lawsuits by federally funded entities involving such residents and in Department of Justice actions that could result in an agreement to move such a resident from that resident's facility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 6787. A bill to provide for reforming agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 6788. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for certain Federal officers and employees using their public office for private gain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 6789. A bill to require certain Federal financial regulators to carry out an independent study of their regulated entities' processes for allowing third parties to access consumer-authorized financial data; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 6790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that gain or loss on the sale or exchange of certain coins or bullion is exempt from recognition; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6791. A bill to establish a grant program within the Department of Labor to support the creation, implementation, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in cybersecurity; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 6792. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LEVIN):
H.J. Res. 139. A joint resolution providing for the designation of a "Freedom to Choose their Destiny for the Nations of Eastern Europe and Eurasia Week"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution requiring Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to participate in random drug testing; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SIREs, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VELA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. GALLEG0, and Ms. DEGETTE):
H. Res. 1058. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of September as "National Voting Rights Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H. Res. 1060. A resolution commending Alice Allison Dunnigan for her barrier-breaking career in journalism; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Res. 1061. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 16, 2018, through September 22, 2018, as "Balance Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 1062. A resolution supporting the goals to protect United States military personnel from malaria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 6770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 6771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 6772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan:

H.R. 6774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. YODER:

H.R. 6776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the

Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 6778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 6779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 6780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, “The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and Post Roads In the Constitution, the power possessed by Congress embraces the regulation of the Postal System in the country. Therefore, the proposed legislation in naming a post office would fall under the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 6781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DONOVAN:

H.R. 6783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 6784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 6785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; [. . .]—And

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. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 6786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Article III, Section 1

Article III, Section 2, Clause 2

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 6788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 6789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for the Monetary Metals Tax Neutrality Act of 2018 is found in Article I, Section 8, which gives Congress the power to lay and collect taxes.

By Ms. ROSEN:

H.R. 6791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 6792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: 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 Ms. KAPTUR:

H.J. Res. 139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 93: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 303: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 354: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 502: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 544: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 564: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 592: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 762: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1102: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1121: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1300: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1318: Mr. BOST and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 1363: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1447: Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr.

TED LIEU of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1515: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1683: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1884: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1902: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1911: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1957: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HECK, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2069: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 2092: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 2119: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2150: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2267: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2315: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 2358: Mr. COOPER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BACON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 2594: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2620: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 2640: Mr. WELCH and Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 2902: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2953: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3145: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3222: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COOPER, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3325: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 3398: Ms. BORDALLO and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 3473: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3513: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 3520: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KIHUEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3780: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 3798: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 3834: Mr. FASO, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3976: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 4107: Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FASO, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 4143: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4256: Mr. BUSHON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 4312: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 4426: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 4454: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4483: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 4588: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 4704: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4732: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 4765: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 5011: Mr. PETERS, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 5034: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mrs. TORRES.

- H.R. 5114: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 5136: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 5141: Mr. MARINO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5153: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HILL, and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 5161: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5222: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5244: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 5282: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 5306: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 5340: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 5341: Ms. ROSEN.
H.R. 5374: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5460: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 5468: Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 5476: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 5500: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 5561: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. LAMB, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 5671: Mr. SIREN and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5701: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 5753: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 5760: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5819: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 5879: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GALLEGGO, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 5899: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 5908: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5948: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 5949: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 5988: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 6014: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6016: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6018: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 6021: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 6033: Mr. COOPER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KIHUEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 6064: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 6079: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 6080: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6086: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6093: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6097: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 6104: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. DAVID-SON.
H.R. 6125: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 6143: Ms. ROSEN and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 6144: Mr. BIGGS and Ms. ROSEN.
H.R. 6156: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. BILL-RAKIS.
H.R. 6197: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6224: Mr. TURNER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 6227: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 6230: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6267: Mr. SOTO and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 6268: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 6277: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 6287: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 6390: Mr. CICCILLINE.
H.R. 6411: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6417: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 6421: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 6437: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 6455: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 6505: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6510: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HIMES, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 6543: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 6545: Mr. KEATING, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 6580: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6595: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 6606: Mr. LAMB, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 6609: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CICCILLINE.
H.R. 6622: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 6626: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 6629: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. SIREN.
H.R. 6637: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6645: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 6657: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 6711: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6720: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6728: Mr. GALLEGGO and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6730: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 6734: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. DUNN.
H.R. 6737: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6745: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6753: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 6755: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 6757: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 6758: Mr. CICCILLINE.
H.R. 6759: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. DELANEY.
H. Res. 15: Mr. PETERSON.
H. Res. 31: Mr. LAMB and Mr. PETERSON.
H. Res. 69: Mr. COHEN and Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 199: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H. Res. 274: Mr. CORREA.
H. Res. 349: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H. Res. 401: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H. Res. 493: Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 673: Mr. PERRY and Mrs. LESKO.
H. Res. 776: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 864: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Res. 987: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H. Res. 993: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H. Res. 1031: Mr. DELANEY.
H. Res. 1055: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6417: Mr. EVANS.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3:01 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of our being, on yesterday, as we remembered September 11, we also felt gratitude for Your sovereignty over the affairs of humanity. May our lawmakers trust in Your unfolding providence to continue to sustain this land we love and guide our world.

Lord, disentangle our Senators from life's turmoil, inspiring them to focus on accomplishing Your purposes. Lord, give them the wisdom to find time to read Sacred Scriptures. Remind them that they belong to You, as You draw them daily nearer to Yourself.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Nation watched the President's out-

standing Supreme Court nominee last week, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, testify before the Judiciary Committee.

They saw Chairman GRASSLEY guide the committee with gracious, strong leadership and an incredible amount of patience. The chairman deserves our gratitude, as do all of the committee staff, whose hard work and dedication made it possible for Senators to thoroughly examine Judge Kavanaugh and review more pages of documents pertaining to his career than were produced for the last five Supreme Court nominees combined.

The American people also saw an extensive extremely impressive nominee. Judge Kavanaugh was candid and forthcoming, within the ethical constraints that exist for judicial nominees. He demonstrated the intellectual brilliance and thoughtful temperament for which he is so widely known. He showed exactly why he is universally acknowledged as a leading legal mind and exactly why he will make a phenomenal Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, not everyone performed as admirably or as professionally last week. Some of our Democratic colleagues repeatedly interrupted Chairman GRASSLEY, behaved rudely toward the nominee, and hauled out one dishonest partisan attack after another to try to distort his record and smear Judge Kavanaugh.

Now, this is a nominee who Lisa Blatt, a prominent litigator and self-described liberal Democrat, testified as "unquestionably qualified by his extraordinary intellect, experience, and temperament."

This is a nominee who prominent liberal law professor Akhil Amar praised as "studious and open-minded." This left-leaning academic described Judge Kavanaugh's nomination as "President Trump's finest hour."

This is a nominee whose record and reputation have revealed Democrats' partisan attacks to be futile and silly

and dishonest. At this point, dishonest attacks and half-truths are all that is left for our colleagues who made up their minds long ago that they were going to oppose Judge Kavanaugh no matter what—no matter what.

You don't need to take my word for this. The Washington Post's Fact Checker called out one of our Democratic colleagues and assigned her shameless misrepresentation of Judge Kavanaugh's testimony four Pinocchios—the strongest condemnation. This particular Senator cherry-picked from a sentence where Judge Kavanaugh was paraphrasing one side's argument in a case that came before him, stripped his description of its content, and held up the party's position in that case as though it was Judge Kavanaugh's own personal opinion.

But by trying to slime Judge Kavanaugh, the Democrats are only underscoring one of his most impressive skills—his widely acclaimed talent for thinking through all parties' perspectives and engaging fairly with the full range of views, regardless of his personal beliefs.

This and all other specious attacks that were trotted out said absolutely nothing about Judge Kavanaugh's actual record. They said a great deal about the Senators who were willing to resort to them in order to appease the far-left special interests, but I suspect that everyone who listened fairly to Judge Kavanaugh and the other witnesses came away seriously impressed with his qualifications for the Court, and I look forward to voting to confirm him here on the Senate floor in the coming weeks.

NOMINATION OF CHARLES P. RETTIG

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, later this afternoon, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of Charles Rettig to serve as Commissioner of the IRS. Mr.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Rettig's nomination comes at a crucial time, as the Federal Government continues to implement once-in-a-generation tax reform.

Recent memory reminds us just how important it is that all Americans get a fair shake from the agency that oversees the Tax Code. This historic new law makes it all the more important that the IRS continue to modernize and improve its technological infrastructure.

So I look forward to this nominee's getting to work on behalf of the American taxpayers.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we will then turn back to appropriations. This week we will vote to approve the conference report that will fund energy and water, military construction and the VA, and the legislative branch.

This week's bills contain \$147 billion for projects ranging from waterways infrastructure to military family housing, to nuclear security and much more. This legislation equips the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out harbor maintenance, inland waterways restoration, and critical flood damage reduction efforts. It enables the Department of Energy to support groundbreaking research in computing systems and energy efficiency and to step up the security of our Nation's nuclear arsenal.

The Military Construction and VA title funds overdue maintenance to operational facilities, as well as nearly \$2 billion in support for military family and personnel housing, and it expands resources for in-house VA medical services and broadens community options for veterans seeking vital treatment through funding of the VA MISSION Act.

These are national priorities with local impacts that will be felt in every one of our States.

In my home State of Kentucky, hundreds of millions of dollars will go toward training facilities at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, infrastructure improvements in Appalachia, and environmental cleanup efforts in Paducah.

I know all Senators can tell similar stories for their own States. So we are looking forward to taking another step forward on regular appropriations and passing this conference report this week.

I want to thank Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY for all they have done to keep this process going forward.

Thanks also to the subcommittee chairmen, Senator BOOZMAN and Senator DAINES; Senator ALEXANDER, who chaired the conference; and all of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee.

So let's pass this legislation and keep making progress together.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, the pain that opioid

addiction and drug abuse has inflicted on families across America is almost unfathomable. Every day, 115 more American lives are lost to overdose. Synthetic opioid deaths nationwide skyrocketed six-fold from 2014 to last year alone.

Sadly, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is all too familiar with these statistics. More than 1,500 Kentuckians died from a drug overdose in 2017, and Kentucky has ranked among the top 10 States for opioid fatalities for several years.

The tragic medical trends are only one of the ways this crisis is crippling communities all across our country. These drugs eat away at economic opportunities, they erode our labor market, and they make it even harder for distressed communities to get back on their feet.

So this is nothing short of a national emergency, and that is why Congress has already passed major legislation to address it, and very soon we will take significant new action by passing the legislation that has been shepherded by Senator ALEXANDER and his committee colleagues. This landmark package combines work from 5 different committees and 70 different Senators.

I am proud that two of my bills are included—the CAREER Act, to help individuals in recovery transition back into the workforce and access housing services, and a second provision that will step up accountability on Federal efforts to combat addiction among pregnant mothers.

These are just two pieces of this comprehensive package.

It will cut the supply of illegal drugs that pour over our borders, make it easier for communities to invest in recovery efforts, extend a helping hand to families and caregivers, and provide for the longer term medical innovation we need to put this crisis in the rear-view mirror.

I am pleased to have played a part in developing this landmark response.

I am grateful to Chairman ALEXANDER and his colleagues, and I will be proud to vote for this legislation very soon.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, it has been a rough week for our Democratic colleagues who claim that the Republican policy agenda wouldn't lay a good foundation for a strong economy, but it has been a great week for America's workers and middle-class families.

The evidence keeps piling up. Tax reform and regulatory reform have helped create the conditions for one of the best economic moments the American people have seen in recent memory, and some measures are at their best levels in decades.

Here is just a small sample:

"U.S. job growth accelerated in August and wages notched their largest annual increase in more than nine years."

Another headline reads: "Job openings hit record high."

Another: "Small business optimism surges to highest level ever."

This economy is literally flying through all-time records faster than I can come to the floor and discuss them. Many of these numbers are unprecedented. They are exactly the opposite of what some gloom-and-doom Democrats insisted would happen if this unified Republican government put our opportunity agenda into effect.

Fortunately, my Republican colleagues and I know that getting Washington, DC, out of the way helps make good things happen for the American people, and that is exactly what we will continue to do.

ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5895), making appropriations for the energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to their respective Houses:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 10, 2018.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, Mike Rounds, Jon Kyl, Lamar Alexander, Orrin G. Hatch, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Ben Sasse, Lindsey Graham, Chuck Grassley, John Cornyn.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

REPUBLICAN AGENDA AND NOMINATION OF
BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Senate recently completed what was easily the most productive August in memory. We passed six appropriations bills with full debate on the Senate floor. We passed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. We confirmed 25 appointees to important jobs in the administration. We confirmed 17 Federal judges to the bench, and we set up votes for another 8 earlier this month.

When I was home in Wyoming, I talked to a number of people around the State, and they were pleased to see how much we are actually getting done. I can state that they absolutely think we should keep up this pace.

Maybe the most important thing that people expect us to deal with quickly is confirming Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. I believe we are off to a good start with confirmation hearings for Judge Kavanaugh, which were held last week in the Judiciary Committee.

What people who watched the hearings learned was that Judge Kavanaugh is well respected, mainstream, and a highly qualified individual for this important job. What people also saw is that some Members of the opposite party—the Democrats in the Senate—are totally unwilling to give him fair consideration.

Senators have been given access to more than 500,000 pages of records from his time as a judge and throughout his career in public service. That is three times the amount of information that any other Supreme Court nominee has ever produced. For some nominees of the Supreme Court, these kinds of documents are very important. They can tell us a lot about how a nominee thinks and about how he or she might approach the job of being a Justice. It is especially important when that person under consideration has never

served as a judge before, and sometimes that is all we have to look at. But that is not the case with Judge Kavanaugh.

Judge Kavanaugh has served on the circuit court of appeals for 12 years, and he has written opinions in over 300 cases. If anyone wants to know what he will act like as a judge, then they can just look at how he has already acted as a judge for the past dozen years.

These documents, these opinions he wrote in the 300 cases on the court in which he is serving, are the documents that matter. They are the ones that tell us how he approaches being a judge. Senators have had access to these court opinions since the day Judge Kavanaugh was nominated 8 weeks ago. If Democrats would just take the time to read through these opinions, they would see that Judge Kavanaugh is extremely thoughtful and is independent. He is absolutely devoted to preserving the rule of law and protecting the separation of powers that is the basis of our Constitution. If Democrats don't want to read through all these documents and these decisions, well, they can focus on the 13 cases where the Supreme Court adopted Judge Kavanaugh's reasoning. That is how much respect other judges and Justices have for the careful and compelling decisions he has written.

One case dealt with a regulation put out by the Environmental Protection Agency. Judge Kavanaugh found that the Agency had exceeded its authority under the law when they wrote the regulation. Judge Kavanaugh wrote that "it is not our job to make the policy choices and set the statutory boundaries, but it is emphatically our job to carefully but firmly enforce the statutory boundaries."

The Supreme Court agreed with Judge Kavanaugh's reasoning.

One constitutional scholar pointed out that "Judge Kavanaugh commands wide and deep respect among scholars, lawyers, judges, and justices."

Another legal scholar said that Judge Kavanaugh is "one of the most learned judges in America on a variety of issues, ranging from theories of statutory interpretation to separation of powers."

A third law professor agreed. He called Judge Kavanaugh "a true intellectual—a leading thinker and writer on the subjects of statutory interpretation and federal courts."

Finally, if it is even too much for some Democratic Senators to read through all the glowing reviews of Judge Kavanaugh's career, they could just look at what he has actually said. Look at his own simple, straightforward summary of his judging philosophy. In a speech last year, he made it very clear. He said: "The judge's job is to interpret the law, not to make the law or make policy."

This view—that the judge's job is to interpret the law, not to make the law or make policy—and every example I have seen from Judge Kavanaugh's

record is squarely in the mainstream of America's thinking today.

Despite all of this information being available, some Democrats are trying to say that they still want even more documents. They are hoping against hope that if they request another 500,000 pages, they can delay things a little longer. Well, let me assure you, it is not going to happen.

I think that most Democrats who have been making the most noise really don't want more documents. That is because so many of the Democrats complaining the loudest are the same ones who said that they have already made up their minds and made announcements that they are planning to vote against the nominee. Some were saying it before the nomination was even announced.

From the very beginning, liberal activists called on Senator SCHUMER to do everything in his power to keep this seat empty for as long as possible. There are several Senators on the other side of the aisle who have gladly taken up this challenge from the far left corners of their base.

I hope that more reasonable Democrats will reject the calls for needless delays and dangerous obstruction. I hope there are Democrats in the Senate who are willing to listen to what Judge Kavanaugh actually said during his hearing. I hope there are Democrats who are willing to read some of the hundreds of thousands of pages of documents. I hope there are some Democrats who are willing to listen to the experts who are describing Judge Kavanaugh as "one of the most learned judges" in our country.

It is clear that Judge Kavanaugh has the right approach to being a judge. It is clear that he is a person of solid character and that he has a strong intellect. It is clear that America needs Judge Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court and that it is time for Democrats to give up this pointless obstruction.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 5895

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, the conference report that we are considering today is good news for our country. Along with providing funding for our veterans and supporting critical energy and infrastructure projects, it also includes \$4.8 billion for the agencies in the legislative branch.

The legislative branch portion of the conference report allocates funding in an appropriate manner. It promotes government transparency, as well as increasing security here at the Capitol Complex. This is very important.

In support of good government, this agreement includes a provision known as e-file, requiring U.S. Senate candidates to file campaign finance reports electronically, directly with the Federal Election Commission, as every other Federal candidate must do. Not

only does this provision increase transparency, it will reduce bureaucratic inefficiency and will save about \$1 million in taxpayer dollars.

This agreement also provides \$589.7 million for the Government Accountability Office to hire additional staff to bolster oversight of government programs and spending. Having spent most of my career in the private sector, accountability is a good thing. There is not enough of it here in Washington, DC. In fact, according to a report issued by the GAO, the GAO returns \$128 for every dollar invested in its budget. That is a good example of accountability and getting results for the American taxpayer. In fact, the resulting benefit of this oversight by GAO was approximately \$74 billion in documented savings for the taxpayers in 2017. That is where you get the \$128 return for every dollar invested in the agency.

The Capitol Police is fully funded at the requested level of \$456.3 million, allowing for the continued protection of visitors coming to the Capitol campus every year, as well as the Members and their staff.

These are just a few highlights of the bill, which allocates resources in a responsible way to maintain existing services, as well as providing critical investments across the U.S. Capitol campus.

Lastly, and importantly, I want to thank Senator CHRIS MURPHY, my ranking member, for working with me in a bipartisan manner throughout this process. This is my first year as chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee. I would also like to thank Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY for their leadership and efforts to return to regular order on a Senate appropriations bill. This is quite remarkable, but it shouldn't be. The bar has been set so low in Washington, DC, that Congress can't get their appropriations bills or spending bills passed before the end of the current fiscal year going into next year. Well, guess what. The fiscal year ends on September 30, and here we are on September 12, moving forward now on appropriations. That is a good thing for our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this conference report as we continue to move these bills forward to fund the government on time and in the right way.

I see my distinguished colleague, Senator MURPHY from Connecticut, is here as well, and it has truly been an honor to serve with Senator MURPHY to move this forward on behalf of the American people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, let me express my thanks in return to Chairman DAINES for being such a fantastic guide and a fantastic partner on this subcommittee budget. I am excited to bring this to my colleagues this morn-

ing. I will note that he took over midstream from Senator LANKFORD, who began this process. I will also note that we didn't really get moving so quickly to a conference committee until Senator DAINES took over. I give him great credit for adding so much and being such a great partner in all of this.

I really don't need to go through all of the important initiatives Senator DAINES already did; maybe I will spend a minute doing so. I would note that we made progress on some issues that had been stalled in the Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee for a long time—such as intern pay or the requirement to file campaign finance reports online—I think because we were able to do this budget on its own, with a real process, with a real committee debate, and with a real conference committee. When these budgets get tied up in giant omnibus negotiations, it tends to be that only the top four or five issues in the omnibus get the attention from the folks in the room. These budgets are very important, but maybe because they are a little bit smaller than the budget for HHS or the Department of Defense, they go untended to.

As we return to regular order, not only do I think that is a breath of fresh air for democracy, it is not good news for anybody when the decisions over a budget get decided behind closed doors amongst a very small set of people appointed by the Democratic leader and the Republican leader. It is also good government because when we do these budgets one by one, we get to flesh out some very important and sometimes controversial issues that we might not get to address when they are all lumped together in a massive package.

I hope this is now the way we do things. I congratulate Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SHELBY for setting the tone. I know there are a couple of conference committees tomorrow on some other packages. I hope they go as well as ours did.

In this budget, we did some very good things. We have a long list of deferred maintenance here on this campus. We have 16.5 million square feet of buildings. We have millions of visitors who come to experience the U.S. Capitol. We provide \$734 million for the Architect of the Capitol to make those targeted investments.

Accountability and transparency were things Senator DAINES focused on as chairman. We will have 50 additional auditors and investigators at the Government Accountability Office. That is the office which makes sure that we are doing our job, that we are spending taxpayer dollars wisely. When they issue reports, the taxpayers save money, and now they have the ability to do more of that great work.

It also provides full funding for the Capitol Police. I want to specifically thank Senator DAINES for working with us to include in this budget an initiative that we started here in the Senate to improve protections and co-

ordination for Members' security off campus, to recognize the new and emerging threats that exist in and around Washington, DC.

Finally—I have said it before, but I will say it again—there is a breakthrough, a small amount of money to help compensate interns. Lives change when they get to experience something like working for their Member of Congress, for their Senator. It opens their eyes to a set of experiences that would not be available to them otherwise.

Under prior practice where very few Senate offices paid for those internship experiences, you had to be a child of means in order to get here. Now, hopefully, with this small amount of money we are giving to our interns, we will have a much greater pool of applicants and a much greater pool of young men and women who will be able to be here and work in our offices. I think that is good for this place, and I think it is good for the kids who are going to get to experience government. Faith in government and belief in civic participation couldn't be lower today. Giving more kids from diverse backgrounds access to the Federal Government is a very positive development.

Again, it has been a joy to work with Senator DAINES. It is great to be on a conference committee. I had heard rumors about conferences committees, and we got to sit on one and hammer out a budget with our House colleagues. I hope it sails through as we move to final debate and passage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise before you today to express the importance of freedom of the press both around the world and here at home. Journalists take risks—often great risks—to tell the stories of war, genocide, hunger, poverty, and corruption around the world while facing unprecedented rates of intimidation and violence.

Freedom of expression is the bedrock of our democracy, but we must not take it for granted. It is how we hold ourselves to the standards set by the Founders and hold ourselves accountable and how we protect our institutions from falling into traps set by those who seek to abuse power.

Earlier this year, I introduced S. Res. 501, a resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and freedom of expression. This resolution was introduced with Senators RUBIO and WYDEN, and I thank my colleagues for their leadership on this important issue.

This resolution highlights the importance of the freedom of the press, condemns attacks against journalists, and reaffirms press freedom as a priority

for the U.S. Government. This resolution is in honor of the 46 journalists who were killed in 2017 for their reporting, for the 262 journalists who were imprisoned around the world last year, and, as part of that 262, the 21 journalists who were jailed just in 2017 for “false news,” which more than doubled the 2016 record.

These journalists are mothers and fathers and sons and daughters who put their lives and, indeed, their freedom on the line to shed a light on some of the world’s toughest stories. I would like to tell the story of one of the journalists who lost his life last year, Chris Allen, while he bravely reported from a conflict area. I acknowledge Chris’s parents, Joyce Krajian and John Allen, who are here with us today.

Chris grew up in Narberth, PA, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. Chris’s parents say he was an explorer from an early age and had a keen interest in history. He went on to pursue his master’s degree at Oxford. He was encouraged to go to places where history was being made. Chris embraced this calling and became a freelance journalist—first in eastern Ukraine, where he embedded with pro-Ukrainian forces and reported for outlets like the Independent and the Guardian, in order to help give his audience a glimpse of the conflict up close.

His mother Joyce and his father John have shared this memory of Chris:

This desire to bring to light untold stories from uncovered regions of the world and the plights of their peoples—that’s what motivated Chris. He wanted to know the thoughts and feelings of those encountering conflict firsthand.

So said his parents.

After 3 years in Ukraine, Chris decided to embed with the South Sudan opposition forces near the Ugandan border. On August 26, 2017, we understand that Chris walked overnight with these fighters and two other journalists to the town of Kaya. Chris was killed shortly after dawn while he photographed a gun battle between opposition and government forces. Chris was just 26 years old.

In the early years of his professional life, Chris had already committed himself to the vital job of covering dangerous places and exposing stories of vulnerable people whose countries were embroiled in war. In the year that has passed since his death, despite commitments from the South Sudanese Government to investigate, Joyce and John have no official information about how he was killed, and no one has been held accountable for the loss of their son. They have seen South Sudanese Government officials smear Chris’s reputation and threaten other foreign journalists with the same fate. This is unthinkable for any parent to have to endure.

Chris Allen’s parents have more questions than they have answers. Chris and others like him have lost their lives in the pursuit of truth, with no

accountability or justice. Other journalists sit in prison today for daring to speak truth to power. We have a responsibility to advance these core American values—the values of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. These values continue to serve as an example to the world.

As I mentioned earlier, our bipartisan resolution reaffirms press freedom as a priority for the United States. What does this mean exactly?

First, advocating for media freedom should be a feature of the U.S. Government’s interactions with other governments where the media is censored, silenced, or threatened. I have had tough conversations over the years, as I know many of my colleagues have had, with foreign government officials about human rights and the rule of law. I know it can be difficult to advance these values while always cooperating on other issues like security or other political issues, but we must press these issues. Whether it is advocating for the release of two Reuters journalists who were detained under antiquated laws in Myanmar, pressing for an investigation into Chris Allen’s death, or pushing for reforms to allow media workers to operate more freely, the U.S. Government must be consistent and persistent.

Perhaps more importantly, we must model the respect for free journalism and empower journalists here at home. Investigative journalism helps to hold accountable government officials, elected representatives, business leaders, and others. It exposes fraud and waste and corruption, which corrode our society. It helps us to connect with the men and the women in uniform who serve our Nation overseas and to understand the conflicts in which they fight. It shows us the atrocities of terrorist groups like ISIS and the abuses of dictatorial regimes like that of Bashar al-Assad’s. Journalists amplify the voices of the most vulnerable among us and provide for us a window into the homes and into the hearts of people a world away.

Instead of respecting these professionals, President Trump has called them the “enemy of the people.” When we hear powerful voices denigrate tough reporting as “fake news” or bar reporters from doing their jobs by blocking access, we all must condemn it. Reporters, writers, photographers, and media workers in the United States have not been intimidated and will continue to carry the torch of core American values like freedom of the press. On both sides of the aisle, we have a responsibility to rebuke any anti-press narratives by any public officials. This narrative is not only antithetical to the values our Founders laid out in the Bill of Rights, but it is dangerous.

I urge my colleagues to support S. Res. 501 this week and to speak up for media freedoms every day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, late this week or early next week, we will vote on a bill called the Opioid Crisis Response Act.

This is a powerful piece of legislation for which our colleague Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER deserves great credit for shepherding through the process, but he was, by no means, alone in doing so. This bill, as he will tell you, represents the contribution of more than 70 different Senators and 5 different standing committees of the U.S. Senate. That takes a lot of careful work and a lot of determination. The bill is bipartisan, as one would expect, and that, of course, would not have happened without there having been intense collaboration. For those who like to say that bipartisanship is dead in the U.S. Senate, this bill and other bipartisan work we have done and will do is evidence that that is simply false.

In 2017, President Trump declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency. Since then, we have seen 116 Americans die from opioid-related overdoses daily, and in places like New Hampshire, that death rate has been double the national average. In some places, coroners have asked local funeral homes to help because there has just not been enough room to store the bodies at the morgues. Let that sink in for just a minute. Coroners are asking funeral homes to help store the bodies because there is not enough room at the morgues because of the 116 Americans who lose their lives to opioid addiction each day.

People of all races and ethnicities—regardless of gender—are dying. Drugs, of course, do not discriminate. Even when people survive overdoses, they often come back only to return to the prisons of their addictions. Sometimes they rob, steal, or sell themselves in order to get their fixes for oxycodone, hydrocodone, heroin, or fentanyl—all opioids. Meanwhile, for the rest of their lives, their relationships, their families crumble. Maybe they are looking for escape. Maybe they are looking for some sort of meaning. Maybe they are veterans who are self-medicating or they have mental diagnoses that simply go undiscovered, and, thus, they try to medicate by resorting to alcohol or, in this case, to opioids. Yet the result is always the same. Their bodies can’t handle the poison, and their minds’ cravings can never be wholly satisfied. That is how the breakdown begins.

Drug addiction and the carnage associated with it is, of course, nothing new in our country. What is new are the types of drugs that are being created by those who tinker with chemical formulas in order to evade our current laws. What is also new is the extent of the tragedy. Overdoses are going up in many places—so high, in fact, that the average life expectancy for adult males in the United States has fallen. As Christopher Caldwell wrote in “First Things” last year,

“The death toll far eclipses those of all previous drug crises.”

The bill we will be voting on is our honest attempt to look this crisis in the eye, not to shy away from the ugly reality. The legislation tries, in several mutually reinforcing ways, to end what Caldwell calls the “artificial hell” of those who are addicted. It will supply States with critical funding. It will ensure that research is expedited and that patients will have access to substance abuse treatment. It will also improve detection and interdiction measures to reduce the supplies of illicit drugs that are being funneled across our southern border. I will return to the border in a moment and our neighbor Mexico’s role in this.

Part of the opioids package involves legislation I introduced with the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, called the Substance Abuse Prevention Act. It is one of the critical pieces of this broader bill we will be voting on. In addition to reauthorizing lifesaving programs, it is aimed at reducing demand. Of course, supply increases to meet the increasing demand, and we have to do something about the demand side in order to deal with this problem.

It does this first by reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which oversees the executive branch’s efforts on narcotics control by developing a national drug control strategy and coordinating efforts with the States.

Second, it reauthorizes one of our Nation’s most important programs for preventing youth substance abuse and keeping drugs out of our neighborhoods, the Drug-Free Communities Program.

Third, the legislation expands opioid and heroin awareness. Of course, heroin is just one type of opioid. It also improves substance abuse treatment and will hopefully result in prescribers of controlled substances being better trained and educated on the potential harmful effects of the drugs they are prescribing.

Finally, under our legislation, Senator FEINSTEIN’s and mine, the Attorney General can also make grants available that focus on substance use disorders. Some of these grants will be used to determine the effectiveness of programs that pair social workers with families who struggle with substance use disorders. We need to invest in programs that actually work, that make a quantifiable, measurable difference. So these grants will help.

Like the rest of the country, my State is no stranger when it comes to opioid addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Texas deaths from heroin and fentanyl—its wicked cousin—have been steadily increasing since 2010. These are real people we have lost, who have real families and real lives. Cash Owen, from Austin, TX, was only 22 years old. When he went to Westlake High School in Austin, where my daughters attended, he

liked to cook for a hobby. He later overdosed on heroin. His is just one example of another life lost to this terrible scourge.

Obviously, I come from a border State and realize, when it comes to stemming addiction, it is a two-way street. We need to do our part to try to deal with the demand side and to also prevent illicit substances from crossing our borders.

ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—deserves a lot of credit when it comes to fighting the opioid crisis in America. Despite some politicians’ bizarre and irresponsible calls to abolish the agency, it continues to make great strides in protecting public health and public safety. For example, ICE initiated 3,900 cases for human smuggling just last year. It has arrested more than 4,700 members of transnational gangs who moved people and drugs across our border into the United States. It has seized more than 980,000 pounds of narcotics, including drugs such as fentanyl, a synthetic opioid. As I said, it is a two-way street.

Actually, fentanyl is worth dwelling on because it shows just how implicated Mexico is in all of this.

Fentanyl was first developed as a synthetic painkiller and anesthetic. It is 100 times more potent than morphine and up to 50 times stronger than heroin. What is happening is that enterprising drug traffickers and designers are taking pure fentanyl and cutting it with other substances—sometimes heroin, sometimes cocaine, and sometimes methamphetamine. But sometimes amateurs use cheaper fillers and less professional equipment, which makes the doses even more dangerous and the people who take it more likely to overdose.

There remains a debate on just how much fentanyl comes to the United States via Mexico. We know that some comes directly from places like China through our national Postal Service, but a sizable percentage is certainly snuck across our border, along with other illegal drugs, from Mexico.

According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, Customs and Border Patrol seized 355 kilograms of fentanyl at the San Diego ports of entry alone in 2017. By the way, a kilogram is 2.2 pounds. They seized 355 kilograms of fentanyl at the San Diego ports of entry alone in 2017.

There are fentanyl routes that run through Mexican cartel strongholds and head north across the border into the United States. They funnel an estimated 80 percent of the drug across the border.

All this is to say that we here in the United States are not alone because the Mexican Government has its hands full as well. Fentanyl seizures inside Mexico have risen sharply, with just under a kilogram seized in 2013 to more than 100 kilograms seized inside of Mexico last year. According to government data obtained by InSight Crime, in the first 6 months of this year, 2018,

Mexican authorities seized 114 kilograms.

Of course, it is not just problems with fentanyl that we share; our heroin problem in the United States is also tied directly to Mexico. U.S. officials estimate that 90 percent of the heroin used in the United States is produced and trafficked from Mexico.

From all the news regarding the opioid crisis, we know what the results are in our country, but what about Mexico? Is this a problem just for the United States, or is this a problem for Mexico as well?

In Juarez, right across the El Paso border, a rehab center treats nearly 300 patients a day, including many heroin addicts. In Tijuana, where drug use reportedly starts as early as middle school, we know they also have a big problem. We know that all across Mexico, adolescent consumption is on the rise, particularly with regard to drugs like marijuana. But it is not just marijuana, it is methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin—you name it. In fact, according to a recent survey, the percentage of Mexican men and women between the ages of 12 and 65 who admit to using illegal drugs has roughly doubled since 2011.

Here is my point: American and Mexican carnage is related. It is actually interrelated. That is why in recent years, through programs like the Merida Initiative, we have worked together with the Mexican Government to combat this multiheaded monster. But our two governments will have to work even closer in the months and days ahead because gangs, cartels, and drug runners are all adapting, diversifying, and evolving based on new circumstances, and we need to make sure we keep up with their innovations.

In Mexico, since 2007, roughly 200,000 people have died as a result of drug-related violence. That is more than all the deaths in the war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq combined. In Mexico, 200,000 people have died as a result of drug-related violence in the last 10 years.

Now the cartels have diversified. As someone put it, they are commodity agnostic—they will do anything for money. They will ship people from Central America across the border—adults with children, or so-called family units, or unaccompanied children. They will move drugs. Now they are involved in the fuel theft business as well. Black market gasoline is now a \$1 billion industry in Mexico. They are also involved in mining, port operations, and other industries. They have multiple income streams. As I said, they are diversifying.

Meanwhile, the bloodshed continues unabated. The most violent year in Mexico’s recorded history was 2017. The armed conflict between the cartels and Mexico’s military, which started 12 years ago under President Felipe Calderon, now ranks as perhaps the deadliest war in the world apart from Syria. Mexico is second only to Syria as the deadliest war zone on the planet.

As that war continues—and by the way, we support Mexico’s waging it—we may think that the United States has been mostly spared, but that really depends on your perspective. Fortunately, we have been spared the most gruesome acts of public violence by and large, although there are certainly notable exceptions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 72,000 Americans died from a drug overdose last year. I wonder why we don’t read about this in the newspapers or hear about it on TV. We have somehow become numb or anesthetized to the fact that tens of thousands of Americans have taken their own lives accidentally through a drug overdose. Of those 72,000 people who died as a result of a drug overdose last year, 49,000 were associated with opioids, which include substances such as fentanyl and heroin.

The annual numbers continue to rise, with the death toll for 2017 nearly 10 percent higher than a year earlier. This problem is getting worse, not better. Experts believe the rise is attributable to opioids becoming more readily available and more potent than recent versions of the drug.

So here in the United States, we are losing lives as well. That is why the vote later this week or earlier next week on this bill is so important—it is how we will attempt to make some progress in dealing with this crisis. That is also why our partnership with Mexico must consistently be strengthened and reinforced.

Our drug problem—and ultimately the associated violence and criminality—is Mexico’s, and Mexico’s is ours.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER).

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday was the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks—an event that changed my city and our country forever. I spent the morning at the 9/11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan. Two deep scars in the Earth remind us where mighty towers once stood.

I will never forget that day, nor the next: the phones—when they worked—ringing endlessly; the smell of death; the lines of hundreds of people holding homemade signs—I will never forget that—as I walked there. President Bush sent a plane, and we went to Ground Zero the day after. Hundreds of people were lined up asking: “Have you

seen my father Joe?” “Have you seen my daughter Mary?” The towers had crashed, but no one knew how many people had survived. It was awful.

Mr. President, 3,000 souls were lost in one day—one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War—people I knew: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on my way up, a firefighter with whom I went around the city to ask people to donate blood.

Seventeen years ago today, September 12, 2001, I called on Americans to wear the flag in remembrance of those who were lost, the brave men and women who rushed to find those who might still be alive. I have worn that flag every single day since. I will wear it every day of my life for the rest of my life in remembrance of those who were lost.

This year, I want to turn everyone’s attention to a harrowing statistic. By the end of 2018, we expect that more people will have died from exposure to toxic chemicals on 9/11 than were killed on that day itself. Last year, 23 current or former members of the New York Police Department died of 9/11-related diseases—the same number who died on September 11. A new tablet was recently installed at the Hall of Heroes at One Police Plaza to commemorate all the new deaths of members of the FDNY. There is now an American living with a 9/11-related illness in every one of the 50 States and 429 of the 436 congressional districts. I guess they have 436 counting the District of Columbia.

Just as we will never forget the bravery so many fallen Americans showed that terrible day, let us never forget those first responders who did survive, only to contract cancer or a respiratory illness from breathing in a toxic cocktail of dust and ash at Ground Zero.

Nearly a decade ago, I was proud, along with my colleague from New York, to pass the Zadroga Act to provide healthcare for our first responders and a victim compensation fund to help survivors who get sick and the families who lost a loved one to illness. Three years ago, I was proud to work across the aisle to make the healthcare component of the Zadroga Act virtually permanent.

Next year, however, Congress must reauthorize the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund because the administrator of the fund now predicts that the funding will not last until 2020, as we had previously hoped. So many new claims are being filed because so many of these deadly cancers are now showing up. As the death tally from 9/11 continues to grow, we have to make sure the fund is capitalized with enough money to provide an ever longer list of 9/11 victims. So I want to remind my colleagues that soon we have to come together once again to do what is right for the families of the first responders and the surviving first responders themselves who, without

hesitation, risked their lives to save other lives 17 years ago yesterday.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Now, last week, the Judiciary Committee concluded its hearings on President Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Over the course of 2 days of questioning, Brett Kavanaugh managed to avoid definitively answering nearly every question of substance, making a mockery of his participation in the hearings. He refused to say that he believed *Roe v. Wade* was correctly decided. He refused to say that he would affirmatively uphold the existing healthcare law, including protections for over 100 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

He even refused to visit what many consider to be his extreme views on executive power and would not even say if he believed the President was obligated to comply with a duly issued subpoena.

It didn’t matter if members of the Judiciary Committee phrased the questions about already decided cases or hypothetical situations. When he got an already decided case, he said he couldn’t talk about those. When he got a hypothetical case, he said he couldn’t talk about those. He couldn’t talk about anything—anything. What the heck did we have him before us and the American people for if he refused to answer any of these questions?

So after 2 full days of questioning, the American people are no closer to understanding the kind of jurist Judge Kavanaugh would be if confirmed to the Court.

In my view, Judge Kavanaugh’s silence on crucial questions about *Roe*, healthcare, and executive power speaks volumes about his fitness for the Supreme Court. There were so many questions he failed to answer or were purposely evaded, and many times, when he did answer, his answers were totally unsatisfactory and did not answer the question.

Senators LEAHY and DURBIN, for instance, asked numerous questions about his involvement in the Bush administration controversies, including interrogations and the nominations of controversial judges, like Pryor and Pickering. Judge Kavanaugh either avoided answering or offered misleading testimony.

In 2004, Judge Kavanaugh told Senator FEINSTEIN that he didn’t know about a potential judicial nominee’s views on abortion in the vast majority of cases, but recently released emails show that he was told about and discussed nominees’ views on ideology, including *Roe*.

Judge Kavanaugh repeatedly denied knowledge of the Bush administration’s policy on detention and interrogation of combatants, but emails released last week indicate that he had meetings on the subject, reviewed talking points, and opined on legal strategy.

Judge Kavanaugh claimed that he only learned of President Bush’s

warrantless surveillance program when it became public, but an email suggests he knew about a memo justifying the White House's authorization of the program.

Judge Kavanaugh said, for instance, again, that he didn't personally work on the extremely controversial Judge William Pryor, but new records tell a different story. Emails show Judge Kavanaugh was personally involved.

So the extent and the number of these discrepancies is very disturbing, and these discrepancies were made about only the small portion of his record that Republicans have released. Given what we heard last week, who knows what is hidden in the 90 percent of Judge Kavanaugh's record that Republicans continue to hide.

I was disappointed to hear that yesterday Chairman GRASSLEY said that his committee would not examine Judge Kavanaugh's misstatements. He said it was an "executive branch decision" to look at misleading testimony, which clearly defies all logic. Clearly, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee prefers to turn a blind eye to Judge Kavanaugh repeatedly misleading his committee. He, like his colleagues, just wants to rush the nomination through.

The misleading testimony Judge Kavanaugh gave in his confirmation hearing raises larger questions about Judge Kavanaugh's fitness for the bench. Here we have a partisan attorney, involved in every major partisan legal fight for two decades and who shaded the truth about those events to a congressional committee in order to cast his nomination in a more favorable light. What does that say about his impartiality? It certainly doesn't suggest that he is simply this nonideological, nonpolitical, neutral arbiter of the law.

Part of our responsibility in the Senate is to ensure that all judges, especially at the Supreme Court level, meet the highest standard of judicial impartiality and ethics, lest the Supreme Court become simply an extension of the partisanship we experience here in Congress and his rulings be viewed as illegitimate by half the country.

So I urge my colleagues on the other side to scrutinize Judge Kavanaugh's comments to the Judiciary Committee and decide for themselves whether he was completely forthcoming, because if a nominee provides false or misleading testimony to a committee, that should weigh very heavily on the minds of every Senator when it comes time to vote to confirm or reject the nominee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

APPROPRIATIONS MINIBUS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, sometime soon the Senate will be voting on the first fiscal year 2019 appropriations minibus. It has been a long time since we have brought conferenced bills to the floor, and I am pleased that the

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill is a part of this package. This bill is the result of a bipartisan commitment to return to regular order, and I thank Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY for leading the Senate in this process and providing all Members a voice in determining how taxpayer dollars are spent.

We have worked hard with our House colleagues over the past two months to develop a thoughtful and responsible conference report that took into account the input of Members on both sides of the aisle. The conference committee made thoughtful decisions about how to provide maximum readiness for the warfighters and prioritize investments at the Department of Veterans Affairs so it can take care of our veterans.

This bill provides \$97.1 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$5.1 billion over last year's level. Within that, the VA is provided a record level of resources at \$86.5 billion in discretionary funding. That is \$5 billion over last year's level and \$1.1 billion over the President's request. These resources will provide healthcare and other important benefits earned by U.S. servicemembers.

Included in the bill is \$1.25 billion more than requested for medical services and community care to support the VA's traditional community care programs as it transitions to a new and improved program. The bill includes \$8.6 billion for mental health services, \$865 million for the caregivers program, and \$1.8 billion for VA homelessness programs, including \$380 million for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. It includes \$400 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment and \$270 million for rural health initiatives.

The bill provides \$10.3 billion to support military construction and family housing needs, a \$241 million increase over last year's level.

It also funds \$921 million for overseas contingency operations and the European Deterrence Initiative, \$171 million increase over last year's level. In total, 190 military construction projects are funded to restore warfighter readiness and increase lethality of our installations within the United States and around the globe.

This bill also funds improvements to fuel logistics at Little Rock Air Force Base, in addition to a measure to move forward with development on the base's runway.

I am also pleased that the package increases funding to the Veterans History Project, an initiative led by the Library of Congress that builds an archive of oral histories and personal documents of the men and women who served our country in uniform. This is a unique collection of memories of our veterans who served from World War I to the Iraq war and other recent conflicts. It is an important program that ensures future generations understand

the sacrifices our combat veterans made to protect our freedoms. Preserving the experiences of our veterans is an honorable way to recognize their bravery and dedication to our country.

Since its beginning, approximately two decades ago, the project has collected the stories of nearly 1,400 veterans from Arkansas, and nearly 50 of those have been conducted by my office. We are training more and more Arkansas to conduct these interviews for submission to the project.

These are all things that we can be excited about related to this bill. A lot of time and a lot of energy has gone into putting this legislation together. I would like to thank Senator SCHATZ and his staff, including Chad Schulken and Jason McMahon, and Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and their staffs for working hard to address the needs of our servicemembers and our veterans.

I would also like to thank very much my own staff, including Patrick Magnuson, Jennifer Bastin, Joanne Hoff, and Carlos Elias for their dedication and hard work in moving this bill through the committee process, to the Senate floor, and through conference negotiations.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY, along with Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY, for the dedication and leadership they provided throughout this bipartisan process.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to support final passage so we can get this bill to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF CHARLES P. RETTIG

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose President Trump's nominee for Commissioner of the IRS, Mr. Charles Rettig. Now more than ever, the American people need government officials who are willing to stand up and speak truth to power. Unfortunately, Mr. Rettig failed to convince me that he is up for that part of the job.

During his time before the Senate Finance Committee, on which I serve, Mr. Rettig gave me no indication that he would protect New Jerseyans facing the threat of double taxation under the tax bill passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Trump late last year, nor did Mr. Rettig express any respect for the rights of States to administer their own constitutionally upheld charitable contribution tax credit programs. Instead, Mr. Rettig left me all but certain that he would be a rubberstamp for this administration's politically motivated tax policies and would allow a backdoor tax increase on countless middle-class families. At a time when we need independence and impartiality at the IRS, that is absolutely unacceptable.

As we speak, the Treasury Department and the IRS are trying to make sense of the deficit-exploding corporate tax cuts rushed through Congress by the Republican majority last December—tax cuts that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, will drive us toward trillion-dollar annual deficits by 2020 and by undermining the Affordable Care Act, eventually will strip 13 million Americans of their health care coverage.

As the IRS attempts to implement these misguided policies, corporations are pulling every string to rig the Tax Code in their favor. Apparently, it wasn't enough for them to get a massive trillion-dollar tax windfall from President Trump. So now they are amassing armies of accountants and legions of lobbyists to get even more out of the IRS. That is why drug companies are rushing to reclassify their cash stocked overseas as assets so they can pay a fraction of what they would otherwise owe. That is why oil companies are drilling into the law to find new loopholes in the way we tax foreign profits. CEOs want no stone left unturned, no loophole left unopened.

But there is one group that is not getting any special access or sweetheart deals, and that is middle-class families like those in my home State of New Jersey. I have said before and I will say again that the Trump tax bill was one giant hit job on New Jersey's middle class and that of States similarly situated.

You would think that with \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts, Republicans could have cut taxes for everyone. Yet, under the Trump tax plan, 40 percent of New Jersey taxpayers will either face an average tax increase of \$2,100 or get no tax cut at all. That is because Republicans gutted the State and local tax deduction, which 1.8 million homeowners across my State alone depend on to avoid being taxed twice on the same money. These people aren't high rollers. They weren't born into multimillion-dollar trust funds. They are middle-class families who work hard for everything they have.

As you can see, 83 percent of New Jerseyans who deduct their property taxes make under \$200,000 a year. Nationwide, half of all taxpayers who claim these deductions make under \$100,000. In New Jersey, the average deduction totals about \$18,000 per filer—far above the arbitrary cap imposed by Donald Trump and his corporate-sponsored Republican Congress. It means the average New Jersey taxpayer who itemizes their returns could lose \$8,000 in deductions this year alone.

Even the President's own top economic adviser agrees. Larry Kudlow made this quote before he was Director of the National Economic Council, which means the quote is really clear and unvarnished in its truthfulness. He said:

When you end the state and local deduction, because rates are still relatively high, you are going to hurt a lot of different peo-

ple. So the internal logic was not good and this is not a true tax-reform bill.

Only in Washington could Republicans borrow \$2 trillion from China to cut taxes for big corporations and still need to hike taxes on New Jersey families and families like New Jersey families in other States in order to pay for it. That is exactly what Republicans did by capping the State and local tax deduction and hitting our middle class with an even higher property tax burden.

But we New Jerseyans aren't known for being pushovers. That is why, last December, several mayors across our State allowed homeowners to prepay their 2018 property taxes before Trump's harmful policies took effect in January. That is why, back in May, I proudly joined Governor Phil Murphy as he signed a new law to shield homeowners from higher property tax burdens.

Under this program, homeowners who contribute to a State-approved charity may receive a property tax credit worth up to 85 percent of those donations. In this regard, New Jersey didn't reinvent the wheel with this new law. It was modeled after existing tax credit programs on the books for at least 32 other States. All of those here in red offer tax credits to residents who contribute to certain charities.

In our case, we are not shielding families from higher property tax bills but making sure New Jersey has the resources needed to keep cops on the beat, firefighters on the job, and New Jersey schools on the cutting edge.

The IRS has consistently respected these programs. Back in 2011, the Chief Counsel of the IRS released an advisory memo clarifying that State tax credits do not—I repeat—do not prohibit taxpayers from writing off the full value of their charitable donations from their Federal taxes. In other words, getting a tax credit doesn't mean you made more money, and thus you shouldn't be taxed more as a result. That is what is happening across the land in all of these 32 States.

It is not just the IRS that upheld these programs. This issue has gone before the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court ruled that these tax credits are not considered things of value but rather amount to “the government declin[ing] to impose a tax.”

So let's review. The IRS never had a problem with the 32 other States who had charitable deduction tax credit programs on the books—never. The IRS never had a problem; that is, until New Jersey and States like New Jersey decided to create one—until New Jersey and similar States decided to create one. As soon as New Jersey and other States established this perfectly legal tax credit program, the IRS suddenly decided to reverse course. All of a sudden, they are willing to go to court over this and challenge a well-established precedent.

Apparently, the Trump administration is so intent on sticking it to New

Jersey and States like New Jersey that they are willing to jeopardize all of these programs in all of these States—all of them, all of them.

Let me give a few examples of these programs that will be endangered if Mr. Rettig fails to stand up for the rights of States. In Alabama, there is a program that offers families a 100-percent tax credit for contributing to private school scholarship funds. In Missouri, there are several very worthy programs that offer tax credits for contributions—one for shelters for domestic abuse survivors, another for donations for campuses focused on the STEM fields. There are tax credits for donating to State colleges in Indiana, water conservation in Colorado, and public road construction in Arkansas. There are similar programs in Missouri, Kansas, and Georgia.

I could go on and on, but here is the bottom line: At least 30 State tax credit programs are now in jeopardy because the Trump administration changed the rules in the middle of the game—changed their previous counsel's decision, changed course from what the Supreme Court said.

I have heard a lot of lip service from my colleagues about States' rights over the years. They are all about States' rights—until it comes to States like New Jersey and their rights.

Some say that President Trump and the Republican Congress capped the property tax deduction because they have it out for so-called blue States. But at the end of the day, the States most affected by this foolish policy aren't red States or blue States; they are America's blue-chip States, America's innovation States, America's economic powerhouse States.

New Jersey didn't become an economic powerhouse by accident. Our success wasn't born overnight. It is the result of the priorities we set and the investments we make.

Take it from Kathryn, a constituent of mine from New Jersey. She wrote to me after she saw what happened with the tax bill:

My husband and I pay nearly \$13,000 a year in property taxes to the town of Oradell. For this, we receive excellent services and have reputable public schools. I pay taxes to the state of NJ which support our infrastructure, other cities, and necessary programs.

I am fine paying what I already pay. That being said, I feel very strongly that it is unacceptable to be taxed on taxes that I already pay.

Kathryn is right. She is right. It is no coincidence that New Jersey claims more in State and local tax deductions than other States in the Nation and also has some of the best schools in the Nation. We pay for them. Yet, with the Trump tax scam, Republicans want us to pay for them twice.

The Federal income tax system has historically allowed taxpayers to deduct the taxes they pay at the local level. This is one of the longest standing deductions in the Nation's history—to deduct from their Federal returns—and for good reasons. States

that invest in education, infrastructure, and opportunity for all have higher per capita incomes, enjoy more prosperity, and rely less on Federal hand-outs. These are the types of investments that make New Jersey a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

You don't have to take my word for it. Earlier this year, Save the Children named New Jersey the No. 1 place in America to raise a child. I want it to stay that way.

In New Jersey, we invest in public schools because we know that they prepare students to compete in high-paying fields like biotechnology, sustainable agriculture, and medicine. In New Jersey, we invest in public health and law enforcement because we know we are all better off when our streets are safe and our families are healthy. In New Jersey, we invest in mass transit and infrastructure because we know it connects workers with opportunities to climb the income ladder.

We do these things for a reason. New Jersey is stronger when we open the doors of opportunity for as many people as possible. We see it here: State investments, better education, higher wages, a stronger middle class, top three States by SALT deduction. They also do incredibly well in educational achievement and income. There is a clear correlation.

But the Republican Congress has put these job-creating, economy-growing, opportunity-expanding investments in the crosshairs by gutting the property tax deduction. In the process, they are threatening the validity of legitimate programs operating in 30 other States.

The Federal Tax Code has always worked to ensure that Americans don't pay taxes twice on their hard-earned money; that was until Donald Trump came along. Then Republicans abandoned their so-called fiscal conservatism, and together they passed a tax scam that subjects hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans, and many more in other States, to double taxation.

For as long as I can remember, I have heard my Republican colleagues preach about protecting, not punishing, success. But the Republican tax law is a tax on New Jersey's success, slamming hundreds of thousands of families with higher property tax burdens, not in a few years, not in a decade—no, right now—now. It is not fair, and it is not right. It is wrong to force New Jersey families to pay more just so that big corporations and wealthy CEOs can pay less.

In the end, I can't in good conscience support this nominee. He will not protect New Jersey's middle class—and those in other States like it—from higher property tax bills. He will not respect perfectly legal State-based programs like those 32 other States that offer tax credits in return for contributions to nonprofits that do critical work in their communities. He will be nothing more than a Republican rubberstamp for President Trump's po-

litically motivated tax policies. The last thing we need is an IRS that is politically weaponized.

Whether you want to take a stand against double taxation or you don't agree with the Trump administration's politically motivated assault on the rights of States to set their own tax policies, I hope Republicans and Democrats alike will join me in voting down this nomination. Taxpayers in New Jersey and across the Nation deserve better than tax policies that knock the knees out from underneath them and an IRS Commissioner who kicks them while they are down.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I intend to address the Senate on the topic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but I want to observe that the distinguished leader may be coming in just a moment for a unanimous consent request. If he does, I will be happy to yield during the middle of my remarks so he can take care of that item of business.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. President, it is important for this Senate and this country to once again be interested in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During my time in Congress, and particularly since joining the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I now chair, the Western Balkans have been an ongoing concern of mine. Although our relationship with all of these countries of the Western Balkans is important, the United States has a specific interest, a particular interest, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We need to concentrate more on that.

I had the opportunity in July to lead a nine-member bicameral delegation to Bosnia. The delegation sought to see more of the country and to hear from its citizens, rather than meet only in the offices of senior Bosnian officials. We visited the small town of Trebinje in the entity of Republika Srpska, and we visited the city of Mostar in the entity of the Federation. Then, we went on and visited in Sarajevo, the capital, engaging with international officials, the Bosnian Presidency, and citizens seeking a better Bosnia.

Bosnia was a U.S. foreign policy priority when I came to the House in 1995. In less than a decade, Bosnia had gone from international acclaim while hosting the Winter Olympics to the scene of the worst carnage in human suffering in Europe since World War II. The conflict that erupted in Bosnia in 1992 was not internally generated. Rather, Bosnia became the victim of the breakup of Yugoslavia and the extreme nationalist forces this breakup unleashed throughout the region, first and foremost by Serbian leader and war criminal Slobodan Milosevic.

At this point, I will be happy to yield to the distinguished majority leader for whatever purposes he would choose.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Mississippi. I will be brief.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895 be withdrawn; that if cloture is invoked on the Rettig nomination, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate vote on the nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that the Senate then resume legislative session and resume consideration of the conference report; that there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on adoption of the conference report; and finally, that S. Con. Res. 46, correcting the title of H.R. 5985, be considered and agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of our colleagues, these will be the only rollcall votes during this week's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, back to the subject of Bosnia, the carnage and tragic conflict that occurred in the early 1990s was more than about Bosnia. It was about security in a Europe just emerging from its Cold War divisions and the international principles upon which that security was based. For that reason, the United States, under President Bill Clinton, rightly exercised leadership when Europe asked us to, having failed to do so themselves. The Clinton administration brokered the Dayton peace agreement in November 1995 and enabled NATO to engage in peacemaking and peacekeeping to preserve Bosnia's unity and territorial integrity. That was the Bosnian peace agreement.

Almost a quarter of a century later, after the expenditure of significant diplomatic, military, and foreign assistance resources, the physical scars of the conflict have been largely erased. As we learned during our recent visit, the country remains far short of the prosperous democracy we hoped it would become and that its people deserve. Mostar, a spectacular city to visit, remains ethnically divided with Bosniak and Croat students separated by ethnicity in schools, even inside the same school buildings. Bosnian citizens, who are of minority groups, such as Jews, Romanis, or of mixed heritage, still cannot run for certain political offices.

This is 2018. They can't run for State-level Presidency, simply because of their ethnicity. Neither can Bosniaks and Croats in Republika Srpska or

Serbs in the Bosnian Federation run for the Presidency because of their ethnicity, in Europe in 2018. Nor can those numerous citizens who, on principle, refuse to declare their ethnicity because it should not replace their real qualifications for holding office.

This goes on despite repeated rulings by the European Court of Human Rights that this flaw in the Dayton-negotiated Constitution must be corrected. In total, well over 300,000 people in a country of only 3.5 million fall into these categories despite what is likely their strong commitment to the country and to its future as a multi-ethnic state. This is simply wrong, and it needs to end.

In addition, youth employment in Bosnia is among the highest in the world, and many who can leave the country are doing so, finding a future in Europe and finding a future in the United States. This denies Bosnia much of its needed talent and energy.

Civil society is kept on the sidelines. Decisions in Bosnia are being made by political party leaders who are not accountable to the people. They are the decision makers. The people should be decision makers. Corruption is rampant. Ask anyone in Europe, and they will tell you, Bosnia's wealth and potential is being stolen by corruption.

General elections will be held in October with a system favoring the status quo and resistance to electoral reforms that would give Bosnians more rather than fewer choices.

The compromises made two and a half decades ago in Dayton to restore peace and give the leading ethnic groups—Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats—an immediate sense of security make governance dysfunctional today. Two-and-a-half-decades-old agreements make governance inefficient today in Bosnia. Collective privileges for these groups come at the expense of the individual human rights of the citizens who are all but coerced into making ethnic identity their paramount concern and a source of division, when so many other common interests should unite them. Ethnically based political parties benefit as they engage in extensive patronage and corruption. Beneath the surface, ethnic reconciliation has not taken hold, and resulting tensions can still destabilize the country and even lead to violence. Malign outside forces, particularly Vladimir Putin's Russia but also influences from Turkey and Gulf States, seek to take advantage of the political impasse and malaise, steering the country away from its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

As a result of these developments, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not making much progress, even as its neighbors join NATO and join the EU or make progress toward their desired integration.

In my view, we should rightly credit the Dayton agreement for restoring peace to Bosnia. That was 25 years ago, but it is regrettable the negotiators did

not put an expiration date on ethnic accommodations so Bosnia could become a modern democracy. As one of our interlocutors told us, the international community, which has substantial powers in Bosnia, has steadily withdrawn, turning over decision making to Bosnian officials who were not yet committed to making the country work and naively hoping the promise of future European integration would encourage responsible behavior. That has not happened.

Of course, we can't turn back the clock and can't insert that expiration date on the Dayton agreement, but having made a difference in 1995, we can and should help make a difference again today. It is in our national security interest that we do so.

I suggest the following. The United States and our European friends should state, unequivocally, that Dayton is an absolute baseline, which means only forward progress should be allowed. Separation or new entities should be declared to be clearly out of the question.

Secondly, U.S. policymakers should also remind everyone that the international community, including NATO, did not relinquish its powers to Bosnia but simply has chosen to withdraw and exercise them less robustly. We should seek an agreement to resurrect the will to use these powers and to do so with resolve if growing tensions make renewed violence a credible possibility.

Next, the United States and Europe should adopt a policy of imposing sanctions on individual Bosnian officials who are clearly engaged in corruption or who ignore the Dayton parameters, Bosnian law, and court rulings in their work. Washington has already done this regarding Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik, and just recently, Nikola Spiric, a member of Bosnia's House of Representatives. However, the scope should be expanded, and European capitals need to join us in this regard.

Senior U.S. officials, as well as Members of Congress, should make Sarajevo a priority. I hope more of our Members will visit Bosnia and increase our visibility, demonstrate our continued commitment, and enhance our understanding.

Bosnia may not be ready to join NATO, but its Membership Action Plan should be activated without further delay. As soon as this year's elections are over in Bosnia, the international community should encourage the quick formation of new parliaments and governments at all levels, followed immediately by vigorous reform efforts that eliminate the discrimination in the criteria for certain offices, ensure that law enforcement more effectively serves and protects all residents, and end the corruption in healthcare and so many other violent areas of daily life.

Our policy must shift back to an impetus on universal principles of individual human rights and citizen-based government. Indeed, the privileges

Dayton accorded to the three main ethnic groups are not rights but privileges that should not be upheld at the expense of genuine democracy and individual rights.

We, in my view, have been far too fatalistic about accepting in Bosnia what we are not willing to accept anywhere else. We also underestimate what Bosnians might find acceptable, and we should be encouraging them to support leaders based on credentials, positions, and personal integrity, not based on ethnicity. There should no longer be a reason why a Bosniak, Serb, or Croat voter should be prohibited by law from considering a candidate of another ethnicity or a multiethnic political party. All candidates and parties would do well to seek votes from those not belonging to a single ethnic group. This may take time and perhaps some effort, but it should happen sooner rather than later.

Let me conclude by asserting that greater engagement is in the interest of the United States—the economic interest and the national security interest. Our country is credited with Bosnia's preservation after the country was almost destroyed by aggression, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. Thank God our country was there for Bosnia.

Our adversaries—notably, but not exclusively, Russia—would like nothing more than to make an American effort fail in the end, and they would ensure that its repercussions are felt elsewhere around the globe.

Current trends in Bosnia make the country an easier entry point for extremism in Europe, including Islamic extremism. If we wait for discrimination and ethnic tensions to explode again, our engagement will then become a moral imperative at significantly greater cost.

The people of Bosnia, like their neighbors throughout the Balkans, know they are in Europe but consider the United States their most trusted friend, their most honest friend. They want our presence and engagement, and given the tragedies they have experienced, they have earned our support and friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I want to talk about some of the positive steps the U.S. Senate is about to take in pushing back against—

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for 1 minute, I would like to make a unanimous consent request that at the conclusion of Senator PORTMAN's remarks, I be recognized, and that at the conclusion of my remarks, Senator SMITH be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. PORTMAN. There is no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you. Thank you, Senator PORTMAN.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. I thank my colleague, and I am going to talk about him in a second and the work we have done with regard to pushing back against the opioid epidemic that has hit our States. In this body, every single Member is affected by it, and our country is affected by it in very significant ways.

Because of the dangerous hurricanes that are approaching our coast, it looks as though the vote we had expected tomorrow and the debate we had expected tomorrow on the opioid package may be postponed based on what I just heard from the majority leader. But in the next several days, the Senate is expected to take up comprehensive legislation that comes from four or five different committees in Congress to fight the addiction crisis, to help our communities combat some of the deadliest aspects of this crisis nationally. This help is urgently needed.

Let's start with talking about how Congress got here.

First, just a couple of years ago, we passed two bills in Congress that were historic and are making a difference. One is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA; the other is called the 21st Century Cures Act.

CARA, which I coauthored with my colleague SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, who is on the Senate floor with us—he spoke just a moment ago—provides resources directly to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. These are nonprofit programs. For the most part, they are able to apply to the Federal Government directly for grant money. They are doing things that are innovative and new to try to get at this problem, and in many respects, they are working and making a difference.

This year alone, there will be about \$608 million spent on these programs that offer innovative solutions to this stubborn problem that is affecting everyone in this Chamber.

The Cures legislation, 21st Century Cures legislation, this year will be \$500 million annually. That goes directly to the States, and the States then give grants to various programs in those States.

In my home State of Ohio, for instance, \$26 million has come each of the last 2 years. Sadly, Ohio is one of the hardest hit States in the country, so we have a larger grant allocation than some States that have not had as many overdoses and deaths and rates of addiction that are as high as we have had.

I was a very strong supporter of the 21st Century Cures funding, and I applaud Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY, as well as Senator BLUNT and other Appropriations Committee members on both sides of the aisle for their work on that.

Of course, with regard to the CARA legislation, it is actually working out there. I have now had the opportunity to see how it is working. I have been to

about a dozen CARA grant recipients in Ohio over the last year alone. I have seen new and powerful ways that the communities back in Ohio are helping to turn the tide of addiction.

Last month, as an example, I visited the Whitehall fire station outside of Columbus, OH. They are doing something innovative for a fire station. They have opened their doors and partnered with another organization. They get CARA funding, and the other organization gets Cures funding to provide immediate help for those who are coming in and are seeking it or have overdosed; Narcan has been applied and has reversed the effects of these overdoses. Yet that gap that so often occurs in our communities doesn't occur there because it is seamless. People can go right into treatment.

The program, again, was made possible by this CARA grant. It opens the doors of the fire station, and it is working.

I was there at a time when, just coincidentally, an addict came in. His name was Blake. Blake was, as he described himself, a heroin addict, and he had heroin on his person. I had the opportunity to speak with Blake and offer him some words of encouragement. I had an opportunity to ask him why he was there and what had happened in the past. He said that he had been to three treatment programs. They hadn't worked. He had gone straight from a short-term treatment program right back to the streets. The gap had occurred.

He also said that he was ready, and he appreciated the opportunity to go straight into a treatment program, which he had not had before.

I had a chance to speak with him, and I told him to stay in touch with me, to let me know what is going on. Last week, he called, and Blake said that he is now in a 3-month treatment program in Portsmouth, OH. He is optimistic; he is confident. He believes that because of this approach, he has an opportunity now to get clean, to get back with his family and get back to work.

This is what is often needed: a seamless transition from immediate medical attention—the application of Narcan to reverse the effects—to treatment, to longer term recovery in order for people to overcome their addiction. That is what CARA and Cures prioritize, and that is why these programs are so important.

Once again, we will see in the funding this year that those programs have been held up. The good parts of the programs, in particular, are being used as an example for the entire country.

Despite the legislative progress we have made, and despite what I see back home with communities beginning to make a difference, overall, the situation is not getting better; it is getting worse. You might ask: Why is that?

Well, I believe it is for one simple reason, and that is the advent of new drugs, particularly less expensive and

more powerful synthetic opioids that have come into our communities in the last few years. The new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, show that overdose deaths increased 9 percent from 2016 to 2017, the last year for which we have data. My home State of Ohio had a 9½ percent increase in overdose deaths.

In total, CDC estimates that 72,000 Americans—72,000 Americans—died last year from overdoses, the No. 1 cause of death for Americans under the age of 50. Over 48,000 of those overdose deaths were caused by opioids, and about 30,000 of those were caused by synthetic forms, particularly fentanyl. That is more than 60 percent, so this is the big issue right now.

Two-thirds of the overdose deaths in my home State of Ohio are being caused by synthetic opioids, fentanyl. Columbus, OH, unfortunately had a number of deaths over a short period of time, all due to fentanyl. There were about 20,000 fentanyl overdose deaths in 2016, meaning there has been a 50-percent increase in just 1 year.

When you go from 2013 to 2017, there has been an 850-percent increase just during 5 years—an 850-percent increase in fentanyl overdose deaths in our country.

The opioid crisis has continued to tighten its grip around communities across our country, and the emergence of fentanyl has presented a new challenge in turning the tide of this epidemic. Just as we were making progress, this more deadly, less expensive scourge has come into our families, our communities, our States. That is why we need to take action—and take action this week.

I would like to thank the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, for agreeing to bring this legislation to the floor.

I would also like to thank Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER for his good work in bringing together all of the different proposals from these four or five committees I talked about and negotiating with all sides to come up with consensus legislation. This should be non-partisan, not just bipartisan. This is something that is attacking our communities at their core.

I would like to thank and commend the several committees that have held public hearings and contributed legislative ideas to this mix. That includes the Judiciary Committee, the HELP Committee, the Finance Committee, and others.

This bipartisan consensus package puts politics aside and does what is right for our communities. It includes some additional legislative priorities I have been working on over the past couple of years that I believe are going to make a real difference in this fight.

Earlier this year, again with Senator WHITEHOUSE and others, we introduced CARA 2.0, the next version of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. A number of those provisions are included in this package.

One is a national quality standard and best practices for recovery housing. It is critical for people, as they transition out of treatment and into longer term recovery, to have this housing. But it also needs to meet these higher standards because of many examples where it has not and has failed those individuals and families.

The legislation also authorizes support for high school and college students to help children and young adults recover from substance abuse disorders. We have had amazing models in Ohio for this, like the Collegiate Recovery Community at Ohio State. Columbus is now opening its first recovery high school next year.

Finally, CARA 2.0 contributed the opioid legislation that includes \$60 million for a plan of safe care for babies born dependent on drugs. Their mothers are addicted, and they are born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. It is a very sad situation, but it is a reality in my State and in so many others.

To further help these newborn babies, the legislation includes what is called the CRIB Act, which is bipartisan legislation I coauthored that helps newborns suffering from addiction get the best care possible in the best setting possible to get the love and support they need to be able to recover.

It will also help ensure that babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome get the help they need in their early stages of development, so they can live up to their God-given purpose in life, which is not to live with this.

The legislation before us also reauthorizes a number of important programs that have a proven record of success, like drug courts, like the drug-free communities prevention grants, like the high-intensity drug trafficking areas, where law enforcement can better coordinate at every level. These are all positive strides that will help improve what is working in combating this epidemic and provide more resources to help some of the most vulnerable groups affected.

But, colleagues, I think the most important and immediate difference in turning the tide on this opioid epidemic will come from a bill that is called the STOP Act. It is a bipartisan bill that I coauthored with AMY KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota. It will combat the scourge of fentanyl we talked about earlier. This issue of an 850-percent increase in this one kind of drug coming in, causing more and more overdoses—synthetic opioids—has to be addressed; 81 Americans are dying every single day. That is the best data we have from last year. This year, unfortunately, it is likely to be even higher. It is a new poison flooding our communities.

The STOP Act will close a loophole that drug traffickers have been using to ship fentanyl into our country. Unbelievably, fentanyl is actually manufactured primarily in China, and it pri-

marily comes into our communities through the U.S. mail system. You might think this comes overland from Mexico or somewhere else, but this is coming in through our mail system, primarily from China.

We conducted an 18-month investigation into this in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, and we revealed just how easy it is to purchase fentanyl online and have it shipped to the United States.

Based on our undercover investigation, these drugs can be found through a simple Google search, and overseas sellers we accessed essentially guaranteed delivery if the fentanyl was sent through the U.S. mail system.

To be clear, they guaranteed delivery if it is sent through the U.S. mail system, not if it is sent through other carriers, like private carriers—FedEx, UPS, DHL, and others.

It is easy to see why they prefer the Postal Service for shipping these deadly synthetic drugs. The Postal Service has a weaker screening standard than do the private carriers.

After 9/11, Congress passed a law requiring carriers like UPS, FedEx, and DHL to get what is actually called electronic advance data on international packages entering the United States. This electronic advance data allows law enforcement to have a chance to stop this poison because they can find out where the package is from, what is in it, and where it is going. They can then use good data, use algorithms that they have come up with to determine which packages are suspect and pull them off the line.

I have seen this. I have seen U.S. Customs and Border Protection do it at distribution centers for these private carriers. I have also seen, unfortunately, that the Postal Service is not doing what they should be doing.

Without the information identifying packages, it is next to impossible; it is like identifying a needle in a haystack.

Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and it is relatively inexpensive. It is so deadly that as little as 2 milligrams, equal to a few specks of salt, is enough to be fatal. Drug users and dealers have moved to fentanyl as a more accessible, less expensive alternative. I am told that 1 gram of the deadly mixture of heroin and fentanyl can cost about half as much on the street as 1 gram of heroin alone.

Drug users seeking a less expensive and stronger high are seeking it out, and drug dealers are mixing it into a number of other street drugs. No street drug is safe because the fentanyl is being mixed. It is being laced into all kinds of other drugs, often unknowingly to the person buying the drug.

To give you an idea of how deadly this drug is, recently police in Columbus seized 2.2 pounds of fentanyl, which is equal to about 3½ cups—a small enough amount to fit in a plastic bag in your kitchen. That 2.2 pounds of fentanyl is enough to kill 500,000 people, roughly the population of the city of Cleveland.

Because of its extreme potency, deadly doses can be shipped in small packages that are almost impossible to identify without having the necessary information and screening devices in the Postal Service. The U.S. Postal Service system isn't required to do it yet. As a result, they have chosen not to do so. Only recently, under congressional pressure, have they begun getting this data on some packages entering the United States.

Even so, last year, based on their testimony, they say they have received data on 36 percent of the international packages. That is a step in the right direction. By the way, that still means that over 318 million packages are coming here with no screening at all.

Even when they have identified drugs—packages that are likely containing drugs—only 80 percent are given to law enforcement. So 20 percent is still going into our communities. This needs to be changed. It is a glaring loophole. Everyone knows it. It undermines the safety and security of our country in fundamental ways.

The STOP Act will significantly disrupt the flow of fentanyl into the United States by simply holding the U.S. Postal Service, a Federal agency, to the same standards as private carriers. It will require the Postal Service to collect advance electronic data immediately on 70 percent of packages entering the United States by the end of the year and 100 percent for China. Then, it will require 100 percent of international packages in the United States by the end of 2020.

It is a commonsense solution to address the most urgent and deadliest aspects of the opioid epidemic we face. At the very least, it will increase the risk of sending these drugs into our country and raise the street price of fentanyl. That is why it has such broad bipartisan support. There is a growing momentum behind this legislation, and I look forward to the Senate's passing it in the next several days as part of the broader legislation we talked about earlier.

It will not solve the crisis, but it will act as a tourniquet to stop the flow of fentanyl in this country and it will allow comprehensive programs, such as CARA and the Cures legislation, to be prioritized and to function and to allow Americans to live up to their full potential and to allow our communities to heal.

I look forward to President Trump's signing this legislation into law—both the broader opioid legislation and the STOP Act—so it can begin making a difference in communities in my home State of Ohio and all around the country.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE).
The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am delighted to be joined today by my colleague Senator TINA SMITH of Minnesota. Both my home State of Rhode

Island and her State of Minnesota are heavily involved in the booming renewable energy sector.

President Trump has called climate change a hoax, but no matter how much his administration may try to prop up the old, dirty, dangerous, polluting fossil fuel industry, there is no denying the clean energy revolution.

The rapid growth of renewables has been underway for decades, but it has really accelerated in the last several years. It took global wind and solar developers 40 years to install the first 1 trillion watts of power generation. A recent estimate from Bloomberg found that the next trillion will be installed within 5 years. That is 40 years for the first trillion and 5 years for the second. Part of the reason is that lower costs of renewables mean that building out the second trillion will cost half as much as the first trillion.

This chart shows the year-to-year costs of generating energy from wind, from Lazard. Since 2009, the costs for onshore wind have dropped by two-thirds. Onshore wind costs are down two-thirds in basically a decade.

Here is the same chart for solar power. Utility-scale solar costs have dropped 86 percent over the same time period. "In some scenarios," writes Lazard, "the full lifecycle costs of building and operating renewables-based projects have dropped below the operating costs alone of conventional generation technologies such as coal or nuclear."

When you look at the drop in solar costs compared to other resources, you see how dramatic the change has been. This graphic is from the World Economic Forum.

The renewable industry in America has grown to 3.3 million jobs—more than all fossil fuel jobs combined. AT&T has been a leader in this, adopting the World Wildlife Fund's Corporate Renewable Energy Buyers' Principles and signing up under that for 220 megawatts from an Oklahoma wind farm and 300 megawatts from a Texas wind farm, one of the largest corporate renewable purchases in history. So, congratulations, Texas and Oklahoma, for the new home State renewable energy jobs, and AT&T, for your leadership.

In Rhode Island, the Governor's 2018 Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Report has shown that clean energy jobs have risen by 2 percent since 2014, bringing over 6,600 new clean energy jobs and bringing us to nearly 16,000 Rhode Islanders working in clean energy, and it is projected to continue to grow. We lead also on energy efficiency, ranking third on the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's 2017 scorecard.

In Senator SMITH's State of Minnesota, the public utilities commission has required since 1993 that there be a social cost of carbon standard for new infrastructure at \$43 per ton of carbon emitted. Minnesota leads in being a State whose public utility commission

is factoring the cost of carbon into its decision making rather than making the general public pay for what the carbon-producing utilities should be paying for.

Other States are powering forward. I saw Mr. BENNET on the floor. His State of Colorado Public Utilities Commission just unanimously approved an Xcel Energy program to build out a cleaner energy mix and retire older fossil fuel units. Specifically, they are going to retire 660 megawatts of operating coal, close it down, and replace it with \$2.5 billion in new renewables and battery storage. The initial request for bids brought in a flood of new renewable energy proposals below the cost of existing coal and natural gas facilities.

Now, here, because of the politics, political funding, Citizens United, and all the trash that is unleashed in our politics, there is a sharp political divide on climate change and renewable energy brought to you by our fossil fuel friends. But out in the real world, some of the most Republican States are actually at the forefront. The Department of Energy last week released a report showing that Texas is leading the Nation in generation, with over 22 gigawatts of wind capacity. Right behind them are Oklahoma and Kansas, with more than 5 gigawatts of installed wind capacity. Just over 6 percent of the nation's electricity in 2017 was wind nationally, but if you go to Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, they all have more than 30 percent of their power coming from clean wind power.

Oklahoma is at 32 percent. Kansas is at 36 percent. Iowa is at 37 percent. South Dakota is at 30 percent, and North Dakota is at 27 percent.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the Department of Energy reports printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, AND IOWA LEAD THE
NATION

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released three wind energy market reports demonstrating that as wind installations continue across the country and offshore wind projects move beyond the planning process, technology costs and wind energy prices continue to fall. The reports cover three market sectors: land-based utility scale, distributed, and offshore wind.

Highlights from this past year include larger, more powerful wind turbines and lower technology costs and wind power prices for on land and offshore applications, as well as U.S. distributed wind capacity crossing the 1 gigawatt (GW) threshold.

The 2017 Wind Technologies Market Report, prepared by DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, found the following:

The U.S. wind industry installed 7,017 megawatts (MW) of capacity last year, bringing total utility-scale wind capacity to nearly 89 GW.

In total, 41 states operated utility-scale wind projects. Texas leads the nation with over 22 GW of wind capacity, while Oklahoma, Iowa, California, and Kansas have more than 5,000 MW.

Another 13 states have more than 1,000 MW.

In 2017, wind energy contributed 6.3 percent of the nation's electricity supply, more than 10 percent of total generation in 14 states, and more than 30 percent in four of those states—Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

Bigger turbines with longer blades are enhancing wind plant performance. Wind projects built in the past few years have seen capacity factors increase by 79 percent compared to projects installed from 1998 to 2001.

The average installed cost of wind projects in 2017 was \$1,611 per kilowatt (kW), down 33 percent from the peak in 2009–2010.

The U.S. wind industry supported more than 105,000 jobs and saw \$11 billion invested in new wind plants in 2017.

The 2017 Distributed Wind Market Report, prepared by DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, highlights the following:

In total, U.S. wind turbines in distributed applications reached a cumulative installed capacity of 1,076 MW. This capacity comes from roughly 81,000 turbines installed across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.

In 2017, Iowa, Ohio, and California led the nation in new distributed wind capacity installed as a result of large-scale turbines installed by commercial and industrial facilities and electricity distribution utilities.

Thirty-five percent of distributed wind projects installed in 2017 were at homes, and 25 percent were agricultural installations.

U.S. manufacturers of small wind turbines and their supply chain vendors are located in 27 states.

Between 2015 and 2017, U.S.-based small wind turbine manufacturers accounted for more than \$226 million in export sales.

The 2017 Offshore Wind Technologies Market Update, prepared by DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, found the following:

The U.S. offshore wind industry recently took a leap forward as commercial-scale projects were competitively selected in Massachusetts (800 MW), Rhode Island (400 MW), and Connecticut (200 MW).

New York, New Jersey, and Maryland also have offshore wind projects in the development pipeline.

The U.S. offshore wind project pipeline has reached a total of 25,464 MW of capacity across 13 states, including the 30 MW Block Island Wind Farm commissioned in 2016.

In Europe—where most offshore wind development has occurred to date—recent offshore wind project auctions have continued the trend of developers committing to lower electricity prices for projects that will be operating in the 2020s.

New offshore wind turbines are being developed with 10–12 megawatts of capacity (compared to an average capacity of 2.3 MW for land-based turbines and 5.3 MW for offshore wind turbines installed in 2017). As a result, demand is increasing for specialized ships that will be able to install these very large turbines in U.S. waters.

About 60 percent of the U.S. offshore wind resource lies in deep waters. Developing a project in deep waters requires wind turbines on floating foundations.

In the U.S., floating offshore wind projects have been proposed off the coasts of Maine, California, and Hawaii.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, amazingly, this report comes from the same Energy Department currently pushing coal bailout proposals, but that is what you get from helpless, weak leadership from this administration that will not face up either to the scientific reality of climate change or

the economic reality of energy markets.

FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has just finalized a rule for energy storage that could spur as much as 50 gigawatts of additional energy storage across the United States, and that could be a conservative estimate if renewables prices keep along those trajectories we showed before. That FERC rule on energy storage, by the way, is unanimous and bipartisan. The ISO system operators, like ISO-New England, are doing their best to remove obstacles that had kept renewables from competing fairly in capacity auctions and dispatch decisions. This is saving consumers money.

It was reported by Utility Dive that during the July heat wave in New England, distributed solar, which can reduce demand during peaks, saved customers some \$20 million.

This is reliable stuff out in Iowa, where Midwestern is the ISO. They figured out the algorithms to treat wind as reliable baseload power, and the FERC storage rule will further enable this transition.

As you can imagine, the fossil fuel industry is not letting this go without a fight. They are up to their usual political mischief to try to protect their \$700 billion annual subsidy that they get from polluting for free. Their shady tactics are just as would be expected.

Start with the fossil fuel industry. They put in front of them the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers to screen what is really the dirty fossil fuel industry. Those two groups put in front of them some fake consumer group called the Consumer Energy Alliance, and that fake Consumer Energy Alliance put in front of it something called Kentuckians for Solar Fairness, all in an effort to fight rooftop solar for individuals in Kentucky. That is the kind of nonsense the fossil fuel industry gets up to to try to defend itself. But despite that, you can't stop progress. You can't deny costs. You can't win against energy that is cheaper, reliable, and carbon-free. It is time for us to wake up, throw our weight into clean energy, and move forward into the future, rather than let the fossil fuel industry condemn us to a dirty past.

With that I yield to my colleague, Senator SMITH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to continue with my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE as he takes to the Senate floor to speak on climate change for the 219th time.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE is the Senate leader on climate change, and his foresight, actions, and determination on this issue are remarkable. I am very proud to join him today.

Climate change is a dire threat to our environment and to our children's future, and yet, if we rise to the challenge of responding to climate change, it will offer us major economic opportunity. The clean energy transition is already creating jobs, reducing the cost of generating electricity, clearing the air, and improving our health.

The old idea that responding to climate change comes at the expense of the American economy is outdated and inaccurate. The clean energy economy is the economy of the 21st century. We see this every day in Minnesota, which is a national leader in the clean energy transition.

The climate is rapidly changing, and these changes are caused by human activities that release greenhouse gases. I know this because it is what science shows us.

In Minnesota, we take special pride in the severity of our winters, but Minnesota winter temperatures have increased by 6 degrees since 1970. More than our pride is at stake. Agriculture and forest pests that were once held in check by severe winter cold are now thriving. Summer temperatures are on a pace to make Minnesota as warm as Kansas by the end of the century. Some models suggest that changing climate and spreading pests could eliminate Minnesota's iconic evergreen forests by 2100.

Urgent action is needed to limit further climate change. If we don't reduce greenhouse gas emissions to near zero by 2060, the world will cross a dangerous warming threshold—a threshold that the United States and other nations have pledged to avoid.

I am deeply worried about these threats, and so are our children, but I am also hopeful because I have seen how tapping into the abundant wind and sunshine is building a new energy economy that is clean, green, and full of opportunity.

Here is just one example. Shortly after becoming a Senator, I visited the Vetter family farm near Mankato, MN, and saw firsthand how renewable energy can provide new sources of income for farmers. The Vettters raise hogs, but they also farm the sun through a 14-acre community solar garden. The Vettters inspired me to become a champion for the energy title in the Senate farm bill, which provides Federal support for rural renewable energy projects.

Just 3 years ago, Minnesota wasn't much of a player in solar energy, despite the fact that we had nearly the same solar potential as Houston, TX. However, new State policy has led to strong growth and solar energy development. The State began a community solar garden program in 2013, and Minnesota now has enough solar energy to power nearly 120,000 homes. During the first quarter of 2018, Minnesota was fifth in the Nation for solar installations.

Now Minnesota is a model, but the Southeastern United States and almost

all of the western half of the country has as much or more sunshine than Minnesota and lots of opportunity.

Minnesota is new to solar, but we have long been a national leader in wind energy. Today, nearly 20 percent of our electricity comes from wind turbines. Like solar, the fuel costs for an installed turbine are zero. So wind energy is sheltered from the ups and downs of fossil fuel prices. Wind energy is also a rural economic engine. A single industrial-sized turbine can bring a family farm \$4,000 to \$8,000 in lease revenue each year.

My State is home to the two largest wind and solar installation companies in the country—Mortenson Energy in the Twin Cities and Blattner Energy in rural Avon. Together, they have installed renewable energy capacity across the country equivalent to 100 coal plants.

Clean energy brings good jobs. For example, wind energy technician is one of the fastest growing jobs in the country, with an average salary of \$54,000, and it doesn't require a 4-year college degree.

Jobs in Minnesota's clean energy sector are growing twice as fast as jobs in other parts of our State's economy. Employers report they are having trouble finding the skilled workers they need to fill these jobs. To address this problem, I have introduced legislation to help employers partner with high schools and community colleges so students can gain the skills they need to get these jobs.

Last year, renewable energy contributed 25 percent of the electricity generated in Minnesota. Nuclear power, which also does not release greenhouse gases, contributed an additional 23 percent. From a climate change perspective, Minnesota is already halfway to being a 100-percent clean energy State, and we are not slowing down. Xcel, our largest utility, is on track to deliver 60 percent renewable and 85 percent clean energy by 2030. Great River Energy, which serves many of our rural electric co-ops, is committed to 50 percent renewables by that same date. Why are they doing this? Well, it is not all about saving the planet. Wind energy has become the cheapest way to add new electricity to Minnesota's electric grid. Yes, Minnesota is windy, but so is every State in the middle of the country. And, as Senator WHITEHOUSE described, most coastal States have tremendous wind power potential through offshore wind farms.

This summer, the McKnight Foundation released a groundbreaking analysis of what decarbonizing Minnesota's economy would mean. If Minnesota continues to move away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, we can achieve a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. That would mean an electric mix that includes at least 91 percent clean energy. That would mean total energy bill savings of \$600 to \$1,200 per Minnesota household each year. It also would

mean 20,000 more jobs in our State compared to a “business as usual” scenario, with continued reliance on fossil fuels.

Given all of the upsides, it is disheartening that the President continues to do everything in his power to slow down the clean energy transition. He would rather take us backward than have America remain a world leader pushing forward. He is pulling the United States out of the Paris climate agreement. He is taking steps to roll back auto fuel efficiency standards and trampling on the rights of States that want to maintain rigorous targets. He has tried repeatedly to keep uneconomic and polluting coal plants open—a move that, if successful, would cost American taxpayers and electric bill payers billions of dollars a year.

In a recent attack on clean energy, President Trump has proposed replacing the Clean Power Plan with an alternative that would actually increase greenhouse gas emissions and, by the administration’s own calculation, cause up to 1,400 additional deaths per year due to air pollution. Just yesterday, the Trump administration proposed to weaken rules that limit the release of methane—a potent greenhouse gas.

Instead, the Federal Government can and should partner with States to encourage the spread of clean energy. The Federal Government should help States lead and not hold them back.

First, we should set national clean energy targets. These should be a floor, not a ceiling, setting States free to innovate and adopt the best way to meet energy emission reductions given their local resources, local economies, and local sensibilities.

Second, the Federal targets should be technology neutral. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In one place, this might mean wind power; in another, nuclear power. Some States have great hydropower resources, while others might choose to utilize carbon capture and storage upgrades to existing coal plants.

Third, we should work with States to enhance the interstate transmission system. I have talked a lot about what Minnesota is doing on clean energy. States like California and Hawaii and many others are certainly also leading the way. With transmission, the Texas grid expansion provides a potential national model. That expansion is helping bring clean electricity from the windy western part of Texas to the large cities in the east.

Fourth, the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission must properly account for greenhouse gas emissions when it approves projects. It should allow States to value their nuclear plants as zero-emission sources. As the original fleet of nuclear plants retires, it is imperative that they be replaced with non-emitting power sources.

Last, the Federal government should expand support for cutting-edge energy research at our National Labs and at

State universities. The Federal Government also needs to recognize that the discoveries in the lab only help if they are actually deployed. We must help States and utilities take risks on new, potentially game-changing technologies. To those ends, I recently introduced legislation to help fund both research and initial deployment of new energy storage technologies.

We have everything to lose if we fail to meet the challenge of climate change. We owe our children and the next generation a better alternative.

I again thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this issue and for inviting me to join him today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate is a bit behind in terms of the schedule. I ask unanimous consent, as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee—we will be voting on Mr. Rettig here shortly—that I be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes at the conclusion of my colleague Senator BENNET’s remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in recent weeks, President Trump has gone around the country touting the strength of the economy. He said:

Our economy is the strongest it has ever been in the history of our country, and you just have to look at the numbers to know that.

The numbers do tell us that the economy is strong and getting stronger, and that is a good thing, but they also tell us that the economy has been strengthening since 2010—after President Obama acted to save us from another Great Depression and when some Members of Congress wouldn’t lift a finger to help him.

During President Obama’s term, even as the economic data showed more and more investment and more growth, the other side talked down the recovery because, even though it was good for America, it didn’t help them win elections. As a candidate, this was Donald Trump’s specialty. He was a master of this in September 2016—long into the recovery—when he said: “This is the weakest so-called recovery since the Great Depression.” The Great Depression wasn’t a recovery; it was the Great Depression. We were coming out of the great recession.

He even questioned the government’s monthly jobs report, at one point calling it “total fiction.”

“Nobody has jobs. . . . It is not a real economy. It is a phony set of numbers. They cooked the books,” he said of the government’s report. “Don’t believe those phony numbers when you hear 4.9

percent or 5 percent unemployment. The number’s probably 28, 29, as high as 35. In fact, I even heard recently 42 percent.” He campaigned on that.

Now that he is President, Donald Trump’s attitude has changed. This month he said that we have the strongest economy in the history of our Nation. It turns out that he loves those jobs reports that he criticized so readily under President Obama:

JUST OUT: 3.9% Unemployment. 4% is Broken! In the meantime, WITCH HUNT!

If you only read the President’s twitter feed—which I don’t recommend—you could be forgiven for believing that the economy was collapsing under President Obama but is now roaring back under his administration. As usual, the truth is not nearly as partisan.

If we ignore the hyperbole and exaggeration and review the actual history, the trends are clear. The economy was shrinking and shedding jobs when President Obama took office. He stepped in and made difficult decisions, and soon after, the economy began growing, adding jobs and gaining strength. And it has continued under President Trump, I am pleased to say.

Let’s look at the record.

Last week, President Trump celebrated the almost 4 million jobs created since the election. In the first year and a half of President Trump, the economy created an average of 189,000 jobs a month. That is good. Compare that to the last year and a half under President Obama when the economy created 208,000 jobs a month. Unfortunately, we have lost some ground since the Obama administration, but we are still making progress. This chart demonstrates that.

This chart also demonstrates that despite President Trump’s deficit-busting tax cuts and higher spending, job growth has actually slowed under his administration. The same is true for wages. I don’t take any pleasure in this, but, as you can see here, average hourly earnings grew at a rate of 1.3 percent during the course of President Obama’s last 18 months; they grew by 1.1 percent during President Trump’s first 18 months. That growth has slowed.

Last week, President Trump also said that we have more people working today than at any point ever in history. That is true, but it has been true since May of 2014. In fact, the private sector has added jobs for 102 months straight—the longest streak on record, and 80 percent of that streak was during the Obama administration.

As in other parts of his life, when it comes to jobs, President Trump is once again coasting on his inheritance.

President Trump said:

Economic growth last quarter was 4.2 percent, and as you people know, it was headed down, big. And it was a low number. A very low number. It would have been, in my opinion, it would have been less than zero. It was heading to negative numbers.

First, the economy did grow by 4.2 percent last quarter, but it grew by the

same rate for several quarters in 2015 and 2016 under President Obama.

There is not a single economist who thought we were “heading to negative numbers” at the end of the Obama administration. In fact, when asked, a surrogate for this administration couldn’t name a single economist to back up the President’s claim.

Most recently, on Monday, President Trump tweeted:

The GDP Rate (4.2%) is higher than the Unemployment Rate (3.9%) for the first time in over 100 years!

Even FOX News had to call him out on that one. They pointed out that since 1948, GDP growth has been higher than the unemployment rate 63 different times. This is not the first time; it has happened 63 times.

The one thing that actually has happened for the first time during the course of this administration is that it is the first time in American history that the unemployment rate is falling and our deficit is going up. That has never happened before. It is hard to do that. The level of irresponsibility required to have an outcome where your unemployment is falling and your deficit is rising is unheard of in American history.

The Congressional Budget Office just announced that the government spent \$895 billion more than it took in over the past 11 months. That is a 33-percent increase in our deficit from last year. It is a 53-percent increase in our deficit since the last year of the Obama administration just 2 years ago. And by the way, we still have a month to go in this year. So the deficit has increased under this Republican President, this Republican Senate, this Republican House majority, by more than half since President Obama left office.

By the way, and parenthetically, the last time unemployment was 3.9 percent was the year 2000, when we had a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion. That was at the end of the Clinton administration.

This is all a far cry from candidate Donald Trump’s promise to eliminate our debt over a period of 8 years or his promise to provide great healthcare for a fraction of the price, whereby everyone will be taken care of better than they are taken care of now, or his promise to build the greatest infrastructure on the planet Earth—the roads and railways and airports of tomorrow. I haven’t seen any tweets about that lately.

I will give him this: President Trump promised he would be the greatest jobs President God ever created. Do you know what? He has been the greatest jobs President God ever created since Barack Obama was President of the United States.

I want to finish by suggesting that instead of trafficking in complete falsehoods and untruths and exaggerations about what he has saved us from and how phenomenally well he is doing while he is creating these enormous deficits as our economy grows, the

American people would be a lot better served by a conversation about the much deeper challenges we face—for example, why wages have decoupled from productivity, why incomes have not kept pace with cost, why automation and global competition have put tremendous pressure on workers and wages and what we are going to do about it, why inequality continues to rise and economic mobility in the United States continues to fall below that of European countries. That is what we should be talking about. Ignoring these issues doesn’t make them disappear.

Reality is out there in States like Colorado and all across our country, and our lack of mobility and our extraordinary inequality is bearing down on us. Even if the President chooses to ignore it, for the sake of our children, we cannot.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, American taxpayers are facing an uncertain time. After rushing to pass an enormously complex, budget-busting tax bill late last year, Republicans in Congress have set the table for the upcoming tax season to be a time of serious confusion for the public. At the center of this sits the IRS, which is in the midst of trying to modernize its systems, effectively perform its tax collection functions, and implement this boondoggle of a tax law. Today the Senate considers a nominee to head the IRS. While I strongly disagree with most of the tax policy decisions that this administration has made, I am supporting this nominee because the IRS deserves to have dedicated leadership at the top.

There is little debate over Mr. Rettig’s qualifications for this position. By all accounts, he has extensive tax law experience and has worked closely with the IRS in advisory roles over the years. Perhaps, most importantly, he would ensure that the IRS has full-time leadership in place, which stands in stark contrast to how the administration has chosen to run the agency to date. Rather than putting an Acting Commissioner in place who would serve exclusively in that role, the administration chose instead to have a political appointee in the Department of Treasury split his time between his policy role in the Department and the critical role of leading the IRS. There is no doubt that this does a disservice to American taxpayers. It also raises questions about the political independence of the IRS.

I appreciate that many Senators will be opposing this nomination because of the egregious decision made by the administration in July to end the reporting of so-called “dark money” donors to the IRS. In a time when Russia has been shown to use these types of organizations to funnel money as part of an effort to influence our elections, ending the reporting of donor information raises serious questions about who this administration is aiming to protect. I was proud to join a letter led by Sen-

ators KLOBUCHAR and WYDEN urging the Department of Treasury to reinstate the reporting requirements.

At the same time, we have seen the impact that the lack of dedicated leadership and the disastrous budget cuts adopted over the years by Republicans has had at the IRS. Its website crashed on tax day, crippling the ability of millions of Americans to file their taxes on time. Rural Americans are struggling to get the help they need to file their taxes. It still needs to provide guidance to taxpayers on how the Republican tax law will impact them. Without a full-time leader in place, I worry that the IRS will be rudderless at the top. Ultimately, such an outcome would be unfair to hard-working Vermonters who just want to pay their taxes as quickly and easily as possible.

As vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for the funding the IRS needs to meet the many challenges it faces and repair the damage caused by years of budget neglect. I will also be supporting the nominee today, despite my unequivocal opposition to the IRS dark money decision, so that the agency has the leadership it needs as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate is considering tonight the nomination of Charles Rettig to lead the Internal Revenue Service. Let’s be clear. This is not a typical IRS Commissioner debate.

Over the last several months, the Trump administration has weaponized the Tax Code to punish its political adversaries and benefit shadowy, far-right groups that seek to buy American elections. Two months ago, just hours after Maria Butina was outed as an alleged Russian spy who sought to influence our elections, the Trump administration announced a new rule, opening the floodgates to more dark money and foreign money in American politics. Dark money groups used to be required to disclose their donors to the IRS. With this new Trump rule, they will not be required to disclose at all.

To my colleagues, here is what this all means. Over the next 2 months, while political ads flood the airwaves, millions of Americans are going to wonder how much of this stuff is paid for by law-breaking foreigners and special interests. Because of the new rule, the Internal Revenue Service and law enforcement are going to be in the dark as well. There are a few reasons this new rule is unjustifiable and undemocratic.

First, it had no debate in the Finance Committee, where we have jurisdiction over the Tax Code. It had no debate on the Senate floor. I do recall my Republican colleagues bemoaning what they considered to be anti-conservative political interference by the Internal Revenue Service even when none was found. Now, with a Republican administration in office, they are changing

the tax rules to allow for more political interference by creative outside groups and foreigners.

Second, the timing of this announcement could not have more clearly underscored the rotten corruption at the heart of this policy. The new dark money rule was announced on a Monday night—the same day it was revealed that Maria Butina had been indicted for using the National Rifle Association as a conduit to influence our democracy with personal and financial ties. Another administration, in seeing that kind of news come down, might have said: Hey, we ought to hold off on making drastic changes. It might have said: Let's put a little more space between the indictment of an alleged Russian spy and the rollout of our dark money rule that would make the spy's job even easier—not this Trump administration. It was undeterred. It, obviously, decided it could not wait to get this new rule on the books to make it easier for foreign actors and special interests to hide in the shadows while their dollars influence our elections.

The tax rules and election laws in America, with respect to who has to disclose political spending, are already badly broken, especially after Citizens United. Now the administration is taking an enormous problem and making it much worse. The Trump dark money rule is only going to mean that individual Americans will have even less faith that they will be in control of our democracy. This takes us even further from the true meaning of one person, one vote. It puts even more power and more influence in the hands of the special interests.

The fact is, the arguments for this change do not add up. I have heard members of the Trump administration say, including the Treasury Secretary, that none of this information was public before, so there is no reason to collect it; that there is just no big deal here.

To my colleagues, the overwhelming majority of Americans want more disclosure, not less. The administration, in effect, admits it was not using the information political donors used to have to turn over. It sounds to me like the Trump argument for this dark money rule goes pretty much like this: We were not going to enforce the campaign spending laws anyway, so we decided not to bother collecting the special interest information at all.

That is going to be cold comfort to the millions of Americans who are going to get clobbered by enormously funded political ads for the next 2 months before our election.

The bottom line is, the Trump dark money rule is anti-law enforcement, anti-democratic, and anti-disclosure. It puts a blindfold on law enforcement at the exact moment Congress ought to be coming up with new approaches to shed more sunlight on political spending and defend American democracy from foreign influence.

The Finance Committee's vote on Mr. Rettig's nomination was, coinci-

dentally, scheduled to take place during the same week the rule came down. Obviously, this issue was a focal point in the discussion. I raised the issue during the markup. Mr. Rettig had an opportunity to tell the committee he would try to fix it. He did not. He wouldn't even acknowledge the serious problem here for the cause of transparency and openness in our government.

In my view, this rule ought to be put up to the same standard of scrutiny the majority has applied to several other rules that were put in place by the previous administration. The Senate ought to use the powers granted to it by the Congressional Review Act, and it ought to vote on whether this rule should stand. Yet now the Trump administration is taking unprecedented steps to hide its dark money policy from that kind of scrutiny. Trump officials are keeping their rule off the official books for as long as they can to prevent the Senate from holding their dark money rule to the same standard that had been applied to the Obama administration.

When it publishes the rule in the Federal Register or it confirms that it will not be published there but will be published elsewhere, the rule becomes eligible for a challenge under the Congressional Review Act. So far, the Trump administration hasn't taken either step, even though I asked for a response 3 weeks ago. As a result, in the Senate, we have been unable to get a straight answer as to when it is coming or whether it plans to publish the congressional review issue at all. It looks to me like the administration has a policy on its hands that it knows is corrupt, that it knows is undemocratic, so it is playing hide the ball. The more the public hears about the dark money rule, the less it likes it, and we are going to keep talking about it.

I close with one last point, in that there is a lot about the Trump tax policy to be concerned about this evening. Senator MENENDEZ talked about how blue States, like Oregon, California, New Jersey, and others, were hit with a gut punch. Capping the State and local tax deductions to target people in those States reveals the rotten core of the Trump tax policy. Tonight, as we consider the Rettig nomination, I don't know of anything more corrupt in front of this body than to make it even harder for the American people to know where dark money—foreign money—is coming from.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Rettig nomination. He was asked to acknowledge that this is a serious problem. He wouldn't go there. He was asked to describe what he would do to correct the problem. He wouldn't go there. This is as corrupt as anything I know of before the U.S. Senate, and I will be working with my colleagues to fix this dark money crisis and undo the damage the Trump tax law has brought on, and I will be opposing the Rettig nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, thank you so much to my colleague from Oregon for his remarks on taking on the systematic corruption of dark money as it relates to this nomination.

Mr. MERKLEY. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Rob Portman, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) would have voted 'yea.'

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Florida Mr. NELSON is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Alexander	Ernst	Manchin
Barrasso	Fischer	McCaskill
Bennet	Flake	McConnell
Blunt	Gardner	Moran
Boozman	Graham	Murkowski
Brown	Grassley	Murphy
Burr	Hassan	Paul
Capito	Hatch	Perdue
Casey	Heitkamp	Portman
Cassidy	Heller	Risch
Collins	Hoeven	Roberts
Corker	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cornyn	Inhofe	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Sasse
Cotton	Jones	Schatz
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott
Cruz	Kyl	Shaheen
Daines	Lankford	
Donnelly	Leahy	
Enzi	Lee	

Shelby	Thune	Wicker
Sullivan	Tillis	Young

NAYS—34

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Booker	Kaine	Stabenow
Cantwell	King	Tester
Cardin	Klobuchar	Udall
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Harris	Sanders	

Duckworth	Klobuchar	Smith
Durbin	Markey	Stabenow
Feinstein	Menendez	Tester
Gillibrand	Merkley	Udall
Harris	Murray	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Peters	Warner
Hirono	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Whitehouse
King	Schumer	Wyden

in recent years in this package. As a result, the conference report looks a lot like the package that passed the Senate a few months ago by a vote of 86 to 5.

We have a long way to go, but we are getting there with this first batch of appropriations bills. I want to take a second and thank the leaders of both sides, Vice Chairman LEAHY, the members of the Appropriations Committee, and all of my colleagues for their cooperation in this effort. I look forward to continuing to work together and urge you to vote for the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly on this.

Today, the Senate will consider final passage of the “Minibus #1” conference report. This package contains the Legislative Branch, Energy and Water Development, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills.

I agree with what Vice Chairman SHELBY has said. When we first considered this package in June, we held our first real debate on the Senate floor on an appropriations bill in many years. We had eight rollcall votes on amendments. We adopted a managers’ package that Senator SHELBY and I submitted. It contained 32 more—a step toward returning to regular order.

Today, we are going to take another step. This is not exactly the bill I would have written. I think it is safe to say it is not exactly the bill Chairman SHELBY would have written. We know you have to have compromise. You have to work things out. I also knew I could rely on his word, and he could rely on my word. That is why we are here today voting on this bipartisan package.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill includes significant new investments in mental health and opioid abuse treatment. We are not just talking about things we would like to do to address opioid abuse; we are actually including it in a bill. It invests \$1 billion in new funding over fiscal year 2017 levels for mental healthcare programs and suicide prevention and \$454 million over fiscal year 2017 for opioid treatment and prevention.

This bill also provides resources important to Vermonters. It increases funding for long-term, noninstitutional care programs like the Veterans Independence Program in Vermont, which partners with community providers to support veterans who prefer to continue living in their own homes, avoiding costly nursing home care and offering better quality of life. It provides funding for homeless veterans programs, such as the Grant and Per Diem program that offers supportive transitional housing to homeless veterans, and it includes a \$40 million increase for Supportive Services for Veteran Families to help veterans and their

NOT VOTING—3

Isakson	Nelson	Toomey
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 34.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOICE ON RETTIG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all post-cloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rettig nomination?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Murphy
Bennet	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hassan	Portman
Brown	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cardin	Heller	Rounds
Casey	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Schatz
Corker	Johnson	Scott
Cornyn	Jones	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Kyl	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Leahy	Tillis
Daines	Lee	Toomey
Donnelly	Manchin	Wicker
Enzi	McCaskill	Young
Ernst	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—33

Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coons

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session in consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895. The cloture motion is withdrawn.

There will now be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I will try to be brief. It is getting late.

A few months ago, I came to the floor and urged my colleagues to set aside partisan disputes so that we could focus on our most basic constitutional responsibility: funding the government in a deliberate and timely manner.

Most observers deemed the prospect dubious at best. Who could blame them? Like so much in Washington, the appropriations process was broken, but at the urging of Leaders MCCONNELL and SCHUMER and with the help of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—Vice Chairman LEAHY, in particular—we began to put the pieces back together.

Steadily, methodically, we passed 9 of the 12 annual appropriations bills in the Senate by overwhelming bipartisan margins. Today, I am pleased to present my colleagues with the first dividends of their cooperation.

The conference report before the Senate tonight contains the 2019 appropriations bills for Energy and Water Development, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch. It contains very critical funding to help transition our veterans to the new healthcare program they deserve and have earned under the VA Mission Act. It funds nearly 200 construction projects that are very important to America’s military. It does a lot of other things, but I can say that this is an important package, and it is very important in what this package does not contain. It contains no poison pills—none of the partisan riders that have taken down appropriations bills

families secure permanent affordable housing.

The bill nearly doubles funding for the popular Adaptive Sports Grant Program and expands it so that more service-disabled veterans, including those who suffer from invisible injuries like PTSD and brain injuries, can participate in lifelong sports in their communities, or train to showcase their mental and physical training at national competitions. This bill also includes a \$40 million investment for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its evidence-based approach to the treatment of veterans bearing the hidden wounds of war.

However, I am extremely disappointed that House Republicans and President Trump refused to accommodate funding for the costs associated with the VA Choice Program. The program is going to face a shortfall beginning in May 2019. We are not helping our veterans if we make promises we don't keep. We cannot just take funding from other programs for veterans or terminate programs to help low-income Americans or important research at the National Institutes of Health, even though the President is proposing it.

We must adjust the budget caps to accommodate programs for our veterans that have already passed Congress and been signed into law.

We made a promise to veterans. The chairman and I will work hard on making sure Congress keeps that promise.

In the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, we make significant investments that support scientific research, make America more competitive in clean energy and increase funds for renewable energy.

Congress rejected President Trump's shortsighted attempt to eliminate ARPA-E, which researches and invests in new energy technologies, and increased its funding by \$60 million over fiscal year 2018. Thanks to the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, investments in the Office of Science are increased by \$1.2 billion over fiscal year 2017, paving the way for new and groundbreaking scientific research.

And with Hurricane Florence set to make landfall on America's East Coast, this package includes the highest ever level of funding for the Army Corps' Civil Works program of nearly \$7 billion. For every dollar invested, it is estimated that there is a \$16.60 return by mitigating flood damage and transportation rate savings from moving goods on our waterways.

The Energy and Water bill also makes important investments in our rural communities through regional commissions, including \$20 million for the four-State Northern Border Regional Commission. We once again provide strong funding for the Weatherization Program, which helps so many families in Vermont and other northern States who struggle with high home heating prices during the cold winter months. Ad I am pleased that

the bill supports much needed repairs and improvements in our environmental infrastructure and energy infrastructure and strengthens innovative ways to deliver these critical assets that will make Vermont and the entire country more resilient to the changing climate and violent weather events.

The Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill includes funding to pay congressional interns for the first time. A congressional internship offers an entrance to a career in public service, but many dedicated, young adults do not have the means to spend a summer working for free in Washington or in our home districts. By paying interns for their work, we open the door to a wider and more diverse pool of applicants looking to serve their country.

I have long realized the potential benefits to our country of providing this opportunity to talented young people from diverse backgrounds. That is why, since my first day in the Senate, in 1975, I made sure there were the resources available in my office to compensate our interns. I am glad this opportunity will now be available in every office, both House and Senate.

For the first time in the legislative branch bill, we are also requiring Senate candidates to file electronic campaign finance reports, something the House has required since 1995. This will increase transparency in campaign finance and finally bring the system into the 21st century.

This is a compromise bill. It makes significant investments in the American people. It was not an easy path to get to where we are, but the Shelby-Leahy-McConnell-Schumer agreement we entered into—the four of us—has laid the bipartisan framework for a path forward. This package does have bipartisan support. It is free of poison pill riders, and it is in line with the bipartisan budget agreement.

I commend my friend RICHARD SHELBY for his leadership. I also thank Senators ALEXANDER, FEINSTEIN, BOOZMAN, SCHATZ, DAINES, and MURPHY for their vital contributions.

This is the only successful path forward for the remaining appropriations bills, and I am hopeful that House Republicans will continue to engage with this process.

I also remain hopeful that President Trump will join this bipartisan and bicameral vision for the appropriations process.

However, the President's repeated shutdown threats are not helpful.

Just last week, at a campaign style rally, the President threatened to shut down the government after the midterm elections—an attempt that would avoid the immediate political consequences of his brash and short-sighted decision to hold the American people hostage for his useless and ill-considered border wall, which he has repeatedly promised Mexico would pay for.

A government shutdown is not a political talking point. It has real con-

sequences on real people, and I hope the President will leave his rhetoric at his rally and work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

In the Senate, we have come together, Republicans and Democrats. We have made more progress than we have in decades in appropriations.

I hope that we will continue down this path and pass the two additional minibuss appropriations bills that are in conference before the end of the fiscal year. Funding the government is one of Congress's most basic responsibilities, and we owe it to the American people to do our jobs.

Lastly, I often say I am a constitutional impediment to my staff—Chuck Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Jay Tilton, and Jean Kwon, as well as Chairman SHELBY's staff, Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, and David Adkins, as well as the staff on both sides of the aisle for each of the three subcommittees. It takes a lot of people to get a bill like this across the finish line, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication.

I am ready to vote.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time is yielded back.

The question is on the adoption of the conference report.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) is necessarily absent.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Donnelly	King
Baldwin	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Barrasso	Durbin	Kyl
Bennet	Enzi	Lankford
Blumenthal	Ernst	Leahy
Blunt	Feinstein	Lee
Booker	Fischer	Manchin
Boozman	Gardner	McCaskill
Brown	Graham	McConnell
Cantwell	Grassley	Menendez
Capito	Harris	Merkley
Cardin	Hassan	Moran
Carper	Hatch	Murkowski
Casey	Heinrich	Murphy
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Murray
Collins	Heller	Perdue
Coons	Hirono	Peters
Corker	Hoeben	Portman
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Cortez Masto	Inhofe	Risch
Cotton	Johnson	Roberts
Crapo	Jones	Rounds
Cruz	Kaine	Rubio
Daines	Kennedy	Sanders

Sasse	Stabenow	Van Hollen
Schatz	Sullivan	Warner
Schumer	Tester	Whitehouse
Scott	Thune	Wicker
Shaheen	Tillis	Wyden
Shelby	Toomey	Young
Smith	Udall	

NAYS—5

Flake	Markey	Warren
Gillibrand	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Burr	Isakson	Nelson
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The conference report was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, S. Con. Res. 46 is considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and I ask consent to speak for as long as I may require.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

50 YEARS OF KENTUCKY
EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to celebrate one of the great public educational resources in my home State of Kentucky. This month, we mark the 50th anniversary of Kentucky Educational Television, KET, which has provided a vital service to the Commonwealth. It is my privilege to take a look back at the distinguished history of this organization and its impact on Kentucky families.

When KET officially signed on the air in 1968 under the leadership of its founding director, University of Kentucky professor O. Leonard Press, it did so during school hours on the second largest land-based network in the world. Its first instructional program was "Kentucky is My Land," which directly addressed KET's mission to deliver quality educational programming for all levels and to explore the beauty and heritage of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That original goal has animated the remarkable educational and public affairs programming of this network for half a century.

During its first decade on the air, KET continued to expand and provide important services to its viewers, which included the debut of consequential Kentucky journalists such as Al Smith and KET's first nationally distributed instructional series, "Universe & I." In addition, the network began its televised coverage of the proceedings of the Kentucky General Assembly, providing unprecedented ac-

cess and public transparency to our State's legislature and a valuable civic education to our citizens.

As an affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, KET also brings nationally treasured programs into the homes of thousands of Kentuckians. Programs such as Julia Child's "The French Chef," "Masterpiece Theatre," and many of Ken Burns's historical documentary series have made an indelible impact on our country. As KET has grown, it has expanded its programming around the clock to provide educational opportunities to Kentuckians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Throughout the years, KET has also grown its public affairs content, delivering news of the day and critical information to viewers. Staffed with top-notch journalists and featuring interviews with well-known Kentuckians, these programs are an important part of the network's overall mission. Throughout my career, I have enjoyed both viewing and periodically joining these programs to discuss vital issues to the future of Kentucky.

Keeping faith with its educational goals, the network has developed important partnerships with educational institutions and universities in Kentucky. In fact, Morehead State University began offering KET distance learning courses for dual credit, and the KET Fast Forward program has excelled as a learning system for GED test preparation.

I commend KET's 50 years of award-winning service to my home State. It is my privilege to congratulate the network on its success, and I look forward to many more years of quality programming in our Commonwealth. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in celebrating KET's exemplary work.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HELEN
KELLER SERVICES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Helen Keller Services, HKS, on its 125th anniversary, which will be celebrated at its gala at the Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY, on September 13, 2018.

Since 1893, the Helen Keller Services has been committed to improving the lives of individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or have combined hearing and vision loss. The talented and dedicated staff at the Helen Keller Services has made over 60,000 visits to the homes and communities of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Over 900,000 children ages 3-5 have received preschool vision screenings to ensure they are equipped for success in the classroom. The organization has placed over 14,000 individuals in jobs with the help of their programs. The totality of their impact over the past 125 years is hard to overstate.

This fall the organization will move its headquarters to a new 44,000-square-foot facility located at 180 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. This modern struc-

ture will house new classrooms and training rooms, a specialized gym for prekindergarten students, new offices and workstations, a Low Vision Center, and a new technology training space. This will aid HKS in serving the blind and visually impaired community for decades to come.

While the scope of its services has changed and expanded substantially over the past century and a quarter, allowing HKS to touch the lives of countless blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind men women and children, what has not changed is its steadfast commitment to Brooklyn, the surrounding communities, and the entire New York region. I congratulate the Helen Keller Services on achieving this milestone and thank them for their outstanding service to New York.

REMEMBERING SUVASH DARNAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken before about Suvash Darnal, an extraordinary Nepalese Dalit activist who was tragically killed in a traffic accident in Virginia on August 15, 2011.

Mr. Darnal was only 31 years old when he died, but he had already made more of his life than many people who live to be twice or three times his age. He grew up impoverished, with nothing to look forward to. In large measure because of the adversity he experienced and his inherent thirst for knowledge, he became a passionate advocate for his people at home and around the world. As I have said before, his integrity, his humility, his vision, and his dedication live on as an inspiring example of why caste discrimination has no place in the 21st century, in Nepal or anywhere else.

From 2008 to 2009, Mr. Darnal was a fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. Carl Gershman, President of NED, was among Mr. Darnal's admirers and has helped to convey the lessons of Mr. Darnal's life to a wider audience.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Gershman's account of recent events in Kathmandu in remembrance of Suvash Darnal be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the kathmandupost]

(By Carl Gershman)

Aug. 28, 2018.—I visited Nepal recently to attend two days of memorial events held in honour of Suvash Darnal, an activist for Dalit rights who perished in a terrible car accident in Washington in 2011. I first met Darnal a decade ago when he was a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the organisation that I head. I found him to be an unusually gifted democracy activist. He had a marvellously engaging personality, and he impressed many people in Washington as a sophisticated analyst of Nepal at a time when the country was just coming out of a civil war. He was also an ardent and effective spokesman against caste discrimination.

Darnal had the ability to make the Dalit issue come alive for Americans, partly by

drawing parallels with America's own history of slavery and racial discrimination. There are obviously great differences between the US and Nepal, as well as between racial and caste discrimination. But experiences have a way of travelling across borders and cultures in our globalised world, and in his public presentation as a NED fellow on discrimination against Dalits, Darnal called for a programme of 'affirmative action', an idea that was developed in the US after the civil rights movement to highlight the need for proactive measures to address the deeply rooted problem of racial inequality.

One of the attributes that made Darnal such an effective activist was that he understood the importance of organisation and the need for institutions of civil society capable of taking collective action. When he was only 20 years old, he took the lead in creating the Jagaran Media Centre which was both the largest Dalit media outlet in South Asia and an advocacy group fighting to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

When King Gyanendra took power in 2001 and shut down Nepal's nascent democracy, he helped found the Collective Campaign for Peace, a coalition of 43 non-governmental organisations that became the secretariat for the civic movement fighting for the restoration of democracy. And when he returned from his fellowship at NED, during which he had thought deeply about the need to change the pure-impure dichotomy of the caste-based culture and system in Nepal, he created the Samata Foundation to bridge the gap between politics and caste.

What has impressed me about the Dalit movement in Nepal is that it did not succumb to discouragement by Darnal's tragic death, but has found a way to build upon his legacy of struggle and organisation. The programme of remembrance on August 14-15 consisted of three major events—a conference at Tribhuvan University at which five young Dalit scholars and practitioners presented papers on different dimensions of the continuing struggle against caste discrimination; an evening forum where four prominent international scholars placed the Dalit issue in a global context; and a concluding award ceremony at Kathmandu's City Hall attended by 500 people at which frontline Dalit activists were recognised for their efforts to carry forward Darnal's vision of social justice.

These events took place at a time of deep anxiety among Dalits over the rise of nationalism in Nepal that has led the Left Alliance government to dismiss demands for minority rights and the inclusion of marginalised groups as inconsistent with the need for national unity. This problem was addressed by a paper delivered at the Tribhuvan University conference by Amar BK, a PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh in the US, who wrote that despite the hopes for an end to untouchability engendered by the adoption in 2007 of a progressive interim constitution, the recent rise of Hindu religious nationalism has caused an anti-Dalit backlash. Other conference papers highlighted the persistence of exclusion and discrimination in the judiciary in Nepal and the need to refute 'dominant narratives' against affirmative action, such as that the policy undermines meritocracy.

Despite the current backsliding on the Dalit issue, I was heartened that the movement is pressing ahead at every level. In Parliament, Dalit Members of Parliament are preparing shadow bills on the critical issues of land reform, employment, housing, health care, education and the defence of political rights and freedom of assembly and association. At the state level, the Samata Foundation is developing a leadership academy to train new Dalit members of Provincial As-

semblies. Training and protection are also being provided to the thousands of Dalits who have been elected to positions on local councils but who are being blocked by old-line forces from carrying out their responsibilities. And, of course, there are continuing efforts to address the critical long-term need for youth education and capacity-building.

What especially impressed me was the invariably positive and hopeful attitude that the Dalit activists take to the challenges they face, despite the legacy of harsh discrimination and a bloody civil war. At the Tribhuvan University conference, for example, grassroots activist Sona Khatik movingly described the terrible injustices she had suffered, yet said that she had decided early on to take her revenge by doing good deeds, not by using violence. Darnal's widow Sarita Pariyar also took the path of non-violence by invoking the memory of Dr Martin Luther King when she spoke about ending the scourge of caste humiliation.

This positive attitude exemplified the spirit of Suvash Darnal, who always rejected the politics of grievance and victimisation. He never appealed to people's sense of guilt over the injustices done to Dalits, nor did he ever ask for sympathy, let alone pity. Rather than put people off with rancour and righteous anger, he preferred to draw them in with humour, warmth and wit. He always took the high road and appealed to common ideals of social justice and shared humanity. The Dalit movement is building upon what Suvash accomplished, and is using his example as a model and inspiration. If they succeed, they will make Nepal a stronger and more successful country, and will give inspiration to others around the world who are responding to new threats to democracy at a very troubled time in world history.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider the conference report to H.R. 5895, a spending measure covering programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water, military construction and Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch. The military construction portion of this legislation includes funding for military construction designated as overseas contingency operations funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. These provisions provide \$921 million in budget authority for fiscal year 2019. The inclusion of the overseas contingency operations designations with these provisions makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

On June 18, 2018, I filed an adjustment relating to S. Amdt. 2910 to H.R. 5895, which contained appropriations for the same three appropriations subcommittees. The military construction

portion of the amendment contained \$921 million in revised security budget authority designated as overseas contingency operations, and the budgetary adjustment was made to accommodate this spending.

Since the level of overseas contingency operations spending in the conference report is consistent with the previously filed levels and appropriately designated, those funds are now available for use in this conference report, and no further budgetary adjustment is warranted at this time.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GUIDO CALABRESI

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I recognize Judge Guido Calabresi, a dedicated public servant and professor who is celebrating 70 years as a naturalized citizen of the United States on September 16.

His life and career constitute a legacy of commitment and passion for initiating positive change. A deeply insightful and tirelessly driven person, he is recognized as a pioneer in the academic world who has spent six decades educating and serving others.

In 1939, Judge Calabresi moved with his family to New York and then New Haven, CT, from Milan, Italy, where his parents were notable antifascist figures. Forbidden from bringing money with them to America, his family had to start again from scratch upon their arrival. Judge Calabresi and his older brother, Paul, worked to learn English and assimilate into their new home. Their father had a fellowship at Yale, which at the time had no Italian or Jewish faculty members, forcing the family to forge a unique identity at the institution.

Young Guido devoted himself unstintingly to his studies. Once naturalized as a citizen, along with his parents and brother in 1948, he graduated summa cum laude from Yale in 1953 with a bachelor of science in economics, earned a bachelor of arts with first class honors from Oxford in 1955 as a Rhodes Scholar, and then a bachelor of laws magna cum laude from Yale Law School 5 years later and a master of arts the next year in 1959 from the University of Oxford in politics, philosophy, and economics.

Judge Calabresi focused on legal scholarship starting in the late 1950s, when he served as a law review member and note editor for the Yale Law Journal and graduated first in his class from the law school. After graduation, he clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Hugo Black and went on to become the youngest full professor ever at Yale Law School.

His impressive career led him to become dean of the Yale Law School for 9 years, ending in 1994. One of Judge Calabresi's most notable accomplishments in the academic world is his role as a founder of the subfield of law and

economics along with Nobel Prize winner Ronald Coase. His public service included impressive charitable and local government activities, including as a town selectman in Woodbridge for 4 years, beginning in 1971.

In 1994, recognizing his extraordinary accomplishments as a teacher and scholar, President Bill Clinton nominated him to serve as a U.S. circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Judge Calabresi joined the court in September 1994, 55 years after fleeing to America to escape Italian racial laws.

Judge Calabresi was shaped through-out his education, as a lawyer, and as a judge by his experiences as a refugee who courageously forged his own path as a U.S. citizen. Now a senior judge for the Second Circuit and sterling professor emeritus of law and professional lecturer at Yale, he has written seven books and more than 100 articles on law and other related subjects. He has also been awarded 50 honorary degrees from universities across the globe.

With his remarkable record of public and academic service, Judge Calabresi is a credit to the State of Connecticut and to our country. His unflinching readiness to embrace new challenges and benefit his communities sets an inspiring model for all of us.

I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Judge Guido Calabresi on this landmark of attaining 70 years as a naturalized American citizen.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Portland Housing Authority, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Portland Housing Authority and its affiliates provide critical long-term affordable rental housing and rental assistance to more than 3,000 low-income families, seniors, and disabled individuals in the Portland area. They house over 6,500 residents, nearly 10 percent of the city's population.

Portland Housing Authority was established in 1943 through State legislation and is authorized by resolution of the Portland City Council. They receive most of their funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their mission is to provide and expand affordable housing opportunities and services that "improve quality of life, build community, enhance safety, and promote personal success for the people [they] serve and the neighborhoods in which they reside." Certainly, over the last 75 years, Portland Housing Authority has made great strides in helping those in the greater Portland area find affordable housing and strengthening the community for everyone.

One example of the strengthened community can be seen in the community groups created within the housing

units. The Portland Housing Authority received one of the first grants from Women's United, to help fund community dinners where single mothers could learn about relevant topics and get to know each other. Many of these single mothers used these dinners to make friends, discuss their goals, and encourage and motivate each other. They have created their own network, helping each other out when needed.

Another of these community groups is the Pihcintu chorus. This all-girls chorus is made up almost entirely of refugee immigrants who live in Portland Housing Authority units and who have represented Maine on some of the biggest stages, including NBC's Today Show and the Kennedy Center here in Washington DC. This group, whose name in Passamaquoddy means "when she sings, her voice carries far," is a unique way for girls who are new to Maine to gather from their diverse background to join as one voice. This group was started in 2005, and since then, more than 200 girls have lent their voices to the chorus. For many, the group offers a bit of serenity, companionship with other girls who have gone through similar journeys, and a reminder of the home they left behind. The chorus is also a symbol of their new home in the State of Maine.

Over the last 75 years, Portland Housing Authority has not only helped Portland residents find affordable housing, but also has helped them thrive in their community. I want to recognize all the work they have done for the greater Portland area and the State of Maine over the last 75 years, and I look forward to seeing their continued success for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT HUNTINGTON

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I rise with immense pride in recognizing 85 heroic military veterans who will travel to Washington from West Virginia on the Honor Flight Huntington this week. During their time in our Nation's Capital, they will visit the monuments built in their honor. This truly moving event serves as a unique opportunity for us to honor and share our deepest gratitude for these individuals who have sacrificed so much in the service of our great Nation.

With one of our country's highest per capita rates of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of our Nation's most patriotic States. Throughout the history of the Mountain State, our citizens have demonstrated the bravery and selflessness time and again in making tremendous sacrifices to keep our homeland safe and free. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the Honor Flight Huntington will allow these West Virginia veterans to tour the

monuments that have been constructed in their honor. I want to express my utmost gratitude to these special men and women for their noble sacrifice and extraordinary bravery and patriotism to keep our country free and safe.

The 85 veterans participating in this week's Honor Flight Huntington truly embody the Mountain State's history and contributions to the safeguard of our American freedoms. Of the patriots attending, Billie Barton served in World War II, Robert Duvall, Francis Figler, Okey Gallien, Walter Kulczycki, Rodney Murphy, Robert Sullivan, and Freddie Wells served in the Korean war, Robert Montgomery served in both the Korean war and the Vietnam war, and 73 served in the Vietnam war. These men represent our Nation's best, and their sacrifices and valor embody American patriotism. They engaged in combat all over the world and fought in pivotal wars in a critical time for our Nation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are losing so many of our veterans, so we must show them our utmost gratitude each and every day.

Showing our appreciation to those who have served is something that we should do each and every day, but today is a special day to pay tribute and thank those who have volunteered to put their lives on the line for our freedoms. The memorials our Honor Flight participants will visit today serve as an important reminder to us all that our freedoms and liberties come at a steep cost. However, I know our veterans will find special meaning and potentially long-lost emotions when they tour such touching sites.

Our nation would not enjoy the freedom and liberty we do today without the commitment and sacrifice of the veterans who have served throughout our history. Their bravery and sacrifice know no bounds, and for this, we are forever grateful. With this week's Honor Flight Huntington, we celebrate and give thanks for these veterans and all they have done for our country.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans, God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.●

RECOGNIZING DETROIT DIESEL CORPORATION

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 80th anniversary of Detroit Diesel Corporation, a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America in Detroit, MI. I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this truly significant milestone in the history of the Detroit brand, as well as speak to the importance of this anniversary to the greater legacy of Detroit as the "Motor City."

Established by General Motors in 1938, as the General Motors Diesel Division, Detroit Diesel produced the company's flagship engine, the two-cycle Series 71 engine or "two stroke." The two-stroke engine was introduced as a

cylinder inline engine and in a V-configuration in 1957.

Detroit Diesel played an important role during World War II as an essential contributor in the U.S. "Arsenal of Democracy," manufacturing engines for the Allied forces. These engines were used for construction equipment, power generation, agriculture, and military operations.

In 1955, Detroit Diesel evolved to meet the demands of the commercial trucking market. Introduced in 1957, the Series 53 engine was GM Diesel's first heavy-duty engine. The powerful Series 53 engine was made for multiple applications in various industries. It has powered the American timber industry, propelling logging skidders through deep, dense woods. The Series 53 became an indispensable tool on construction sites all over the United States and around the globe. With greater sophistication and power, building from the simple two-stroke Series 71 of 1938, the Series 53's heavy-duty capabilities provided operators with the muscle needed to break ground in many infrastructure projects through the United States. The Series 53 engine's versatility has been trusted for years in the aviation industry to haul packages and tow planes, and has been relied on to safely transport our troops on unforgiving terrain.

In 1965, General Motors Detroit Diesel consolidated into the Detroit Diesel Engine Division and introduced the Series 149 engine, which would be used to power tugboats and mine haul trucks. Over the next 20 years, the Detroit Diesel Engine Division combined with General Motors' Allison Division, becoming the Detroit Diesel Allison Division. From the mid to late 1960s to the late 1980s, the Detroit Diesel Allison Division would continue to innovate and strengthen its position as a leader in the field. During this time, the division created and introduced the Series 92, which would increase its capabilities in marine transportation. In the 1980s, Detroit Diesel Allison would hit yet another milestone: producing its first four-cylinder engine.

In 1987, Detroit Diesel introduced the heavy-duty, four-cylinder Detroit Diesel Series 60 engine. The Detroit Diesel Series 60 engine is known for its fuel efficiency as a heavy-duty engine. As the company's namesake, it would become one of its most well-known engines.

In 1987, General Motors partnered with another Michigan brand, Penske Corporation, and created the Detroit Diesel Corporation. As Detroit Diesel Corporation, the company experienced exponential growth in the on-highway market from the late 1980s to the late 1990s, up until Detroit Diesel Corporation was acquired by Daimler Chrysler in 2000, where they became a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America LLC.

In addition to cementing Michigan as an industry leader throughout the Nation and world, Detroit Diesel Corporation, now known as the Detroit brand,

powers economic and community development through its network of more than 800 locations throughout North America. In 2005, Detroit Diesel Corporation invested millions of dollars in expanding engine production in Michigan through its Renaissance project. The Detroit brand launched another major investment in Detroit in 2012; both initiatives have created thousands of jobs for hard-working families in Michigan.

As much as Detroit Diesel Corporation is the Detroit brand, at its very core, it is America's brand. I applaud its commitment to creating quality cutting-edge technology, ensuring that Michigan, as well as the United States, continues to be at the driver's seat of innovation as the automotive capital of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Detroit Diesel Corporation on its longevity and the immense impact it has made on communities here at home in Michigan and across the country. I wish Detroit Diesel Corporation many more decades of success.●

TRIBUTE TO DICK BROWN

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my friend Dick Brown, an extraordinary Montanan who has dedicated his life to improving healthcare across Big Sky Country. Dick has shown incredible leadership as president and CEO of the Montana Hospital Association for 11 years, advocating at both the State and Federal levels for healthier families and communities.

Through his 40 years in healthcare, Dick has been on the frontlines to bring positive change to our healthcare system. He has fought for lower costs, better access, stronger healthcare facilities, and improved patient outcomes. He partnered with Montanans across the political spectrum to lead the charge for Medicaid expansion in Montana, which has created jobs, saved the State money, and, most importantly, provided coverage to more than 90,000 Montanans who would have otherwise gone without.

We also worked together to host the first Rural Health Summit in Montana, which brought together experts from across the country to tackle the unique challenges of providing quality healthcare in frontier communities.

Dick's positive influence on healthcare in Montana is widely felt from Plentywood to Dillon. Dick is an adviser and friend, a moral compass and steady hand, a wise leader and compassionate advocate.

Healthcare in Montana, and especially rural Montana, wouldn't be the same without Dick Brown. His dedication to quality, affordable healthcare for Montanans has been a blessing to our State, and generations of healthier Montanans will stand as a lasting testament to his legacy.

On behalf of Montana and this body, we wish him the best in retirement.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS C. MANESS

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and honor the late Dr. Thomas C. Maness, dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR, for his outstanding contributions to forest research and his efforts to grow the wood product industry in my State and nationwide.

Dr. Maness served as dean of Oregon State University's College of Forestry from 2012 until his death on July 12. He was a visionary leader in my State and was known around the world for his advocacy of science-based management in the stewardship of our lands and resources. Under his guidance, the College of Forestry earned worldwide recognition for its innovative research and is currently the top-ranked program in the United States and second in the world. Dr. Maness's leadership has improved the health of our lands, people, businesses, and ecosystems by bringing credible, relevant, and timely information and science to our public and private forest land managers.

Prior to arriving at Oregon State University, Dr. Maness worked in both the private and public sectors, logging substantial achievements managing lands in the northwest, honing his scholarship in forest science and engineered timber products in both Europe and Canada, even contributing to the research arm of the U.S. Forest Service here in Washington, DC. He spent a decade in the industry as a research engineer and founded the Canadian National Centre of Excellence in Advancing Wood Processing at the University of British Columbia. Working closely with industry, Dr. Maness advanced research in sawmill optimization and real-time quality control systems and believed deeply that his research efforts should be translated into practical use for professional foresters and manufacturers.

Dr. Maness built his career on collaboration and believed it was key to effective forest management. He worked tirelessly to bridge the urban-rural divide and bring new economic life to our forest-dependent rural communities by starting what is now a nationwide movement to use mass timber building components such as cross-laminated timber in tall buildings. He called it the Forest to Frame movement. Dr. Maness truly represents what I call the Oregon Way: bringing everyone together, using science, collaboration, and cooperation to foster healthy, working landscapes capable of supporting local economies and our strong stewardship values.

Healthy forests, people, businesses, and ecosystems are the heart of the Pacific Northwest, and Oregonians feel a strong connection to these values. Dr. Maness sought balance between these ideals and provided not only Oregonians, but the Nation, with sound guidance on all matters related to one of our greatest natural resources. Dr.

Maness will be remembered for his tremendous contributions to forest management and science.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE THREAT OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat of foreign interference in United States elections and authorizing the United States Government to impose a range of appropriate and meaningful sanctions against foreign individuals and entities determined to have engaged in election interference.

Foreign powers have historically sought to exploit America's free and open political system. In recent years, the proliferation of digital devices and internet-based communications has created significant vulnerabilities and magnified the scope and intensity of the threat of foreign interference. To deal with this threat, I have directed the Director of National Intelligence to conduct regular assessments of any information indicating that foreign election interference has taken place. I have also directed the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct evaluations of the effects of any such interference that targeted election infrastructure or cam-

paign-related infrastructure, and to provide updates and recommendations on appropriate measures to take in response.

In the event foreign election interference is determined to have occurred, the Executive Order provides for the imposition of sanctions on foreign persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to have engaged in, sponsored, concealed, or otherwise been complicit in the interference, as well as other related persons.

The Executive Order further directs the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to develop additional recommended sanctions measures, appropriately calibrated to account for the severity of the interference and any collateral effects on United States and allied financial stability and economic and security interests, targeting companies in significant economic sectors in a country whose government is determined to have engaged in or sponsored election interference.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 11, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 994. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 11, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6124. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to authorize voluntary agreements for coverage of Indian tribal council members, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on September 11, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BURR).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6691. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the definition of "crime of violence", and for other purposes.

At 6:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2497. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, 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. 6691. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the definition of "crime of violence", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-6444. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-oxiranylmethyl ester, polymer with butyl 2-propenoate, ethenylbenzene and 2-ethylhexyl 2-propenoate; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9982-72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6445. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cloquintocet-mexyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9980-90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6446. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metschnikowia fructicola strain NRRL Y-27328; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9982-22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6447. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiromesifen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9982-21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6448. A communication from the Regulations Management Team Lead, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement Process for Rural Utilities Service Grant Programs" (RIN0572-AC39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6449. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chief Compliance Officer Duties and Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap Participants; Amendments” (RIN3038-AE56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6450. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Market Facilitation Program” (RIN0560-AI42) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6451. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Increased Assessment Rate for Area No. 2” ((7 CFR Part 948) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0022; SC18-984-1 FR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6452. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General John W. Nicholson, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6453. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6454. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6455. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6456. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6457. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was originally declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6458. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6459. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics,

and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (Financial Institutions), Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6460. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, 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 U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks” (RIN1557-AE37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6461. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Certain Entities to the Entity List, Revision of Entries on the Entity List and Removal of Certain Entities from the Entity List” (RIN0694-AH42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6462. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2017 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements” (RIN0694-AH46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6463. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Liquidity Coverage Ration Rule: Treatment of Certain Municipal Obligations as High-Quality Liquid Assets” (RIN3064-AE77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6464. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Depository Institutions and U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks” (RIN3064-AE76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6465. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Florida: Redesignation of the Hillsborough County Lead Nonattainment Area to Attainment” (FRL No. 9983-44-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6466. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; ID, Pinehurst PM10 Redesignation, Limited Maintenance Plan; West Silver Valley 2012 Annual PM2.5 Emission Inventory” (FRL No. 9983-53-Region 10) received in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6467. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Single Source Orders and Revisions to Definitions” (FRL No. 9982-99-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6468. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina: New Source Review for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)” (FRL No. 9983-43-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6469. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Vermont; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS” (FRL No. 9983-02-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6470. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9983-33-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6471. A communication from the Director, Office of Technology Transitions, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report on Technology Transfer and Related Technology Partnering Activities at the National Laboratories and Other Facilities for Fiscal Year 2015”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6472. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations” (Rev. Proc. 2018-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6473. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Qualifying Relative and the Exemption Amount” (Notice 2018-70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6474. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure: Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit, or Abatement; Determination of Correct Tax Liability” (Notice 2018-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6475. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury,

transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (Economic Policy), Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6476. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of Automatic 5.56mm rifles to the UAE in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-024); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6477. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6478. A communication from the Strategic Advisor and Director of Congressional Relations and Government Affairs, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's July 2018 quarterly report to Congress (OSS-2018-1090); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6479. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2018 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6480. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary and Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6481. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Dispute Resolution Pilot Program for Public Assistance Appeals" ((RIN1660-AA94) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6482. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment to Premium Processing Fee" (RIN1615-ZB73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6483. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Automatic Residential Garage Door Operators" (RIN3041-AD66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6484. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director,

Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2018" (FCC 18-126) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-299. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Illinois memorializing its ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

Whereas, The Ninety-second Congress of the United States of America, at its Second Session, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States of America:

"JOINT RESOLUTION

Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each house concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

"ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.""; and

Whereas, A Joint Resolution is a resolution adopted by both houses of the General Assembly and does not require the signature of the Governor; a Joint Resolution is sufficient for Illinois' ratification of an amendment to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, The United States Congress has recently adopted the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the so-called Madison Amendment, relating to Compensation of Members of Congress; this amendment was proposed 203 years earlier by our First Congress and only recently ratified by three-fourths of the States; the United States Archivist certified the 27th Amendment on May 18, 1992; and

Whereas, The founders of our nation, James Madison included, did not favor further restrictions to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the amending procedure; the United States Constitution is harder to amend than any other constitution in history; and

Whereas, The restricting time limit for the Equal Rights Amendment ratification is in the resolving clause and is not a part of the amendment proposed by Congress and already ratified by 35 states; and

Whereas, Having passed a time extension for the Equal Rights Amendment on October 20, 1978, Congress has demonstrated that a time limit in a resolving clause can be disregarded if it is not a part of the proposed amendment; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court in *Coleman v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 433, at 456 (1939), recognized that Congress is in a unique position to judge the tenor of the nation, to be aware of the political, social, and economic factors affecting the nation, and to be aware of the importance to the nation of the proposed amendment; and

Whereas, If an amendment to the Constitution of the United States has been proposed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures, it is for Congress under the principles of *Coleman v. Miller* to determine the validity of the state ratifications occurring after a time limit in the resolving clause, but not in the amendment itself; and

Whereas, Constitutional equality for women and men continues to be timely in the United States and worldwide, and a number of other nations have achieved constitutional equality for their women and men; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the One Hundredth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives concurring herein, that the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America set forth in this resolution is ratified; and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Archivist of the United States, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-300. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission June 2018 report submitted to the United States Congress; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-301. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to national security clearances; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

POM-302. A petition from a citizen of the District of Columbia relative to voting representatives in the United States Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2019" (Rept. No. 115-337).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2823. A bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4323. A bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

H.R. 4467. A bill to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4559. A bill to conduct a global aviation security review, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 114-7 U.N. Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade with 6 declarations and 5 understandings (Ex. Rept. 115-7)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Understandings and Declarations.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 114-7), subject to the understandings of section 2 and the declarations of sections 3 and 4.

Sec. 2. Understandings.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following understandings, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) It is the understanding of the United States that paragraph (2)(e) of Article 4 excludes from the scope of the Convention the assignment of—

(A) receivables that are securities, regardless of whether such securities are held with an intermediary; and

(B) receivables that are not securities, but are financial assets or instruments, if such financial assets or instruments are held with an intermediary.

(2) It is the understanding of the United States that the phrase "that place where the central administration of the assignor or the assignee is exercised," as used in Articles 5(h) and 36 of the Convention, has a meaning equivalent to the phrase, "that place where the chief executive office of the assignor or assignee is located."

(3) It is the understanding of the United States that the reference, in the definition of "financial contract" in Article 5(k), to "any other transaction similar to any transaction referred to above entered into in financial markets" is intended to include transactions that are or become the subject of recurrent dealings in financial markets and under which payment rights are determined by reference to—

(A) underlying asset classes; or

(B) quantitative measures of economic or financial risk or value associated with an occurrence or contingency. Examples are transactions under which payment rights are determined by reference to weather statistics, freight rates, emissions allowances, or economic statistics.

(4) It is the understanding of the United States that because the Convention applies only to "receivables," which are defined in Article 2(a) as contractual rights to payment of a monetary sum, the Convention does not apply to other rights of a party to a license of intellectual property or an assignment or other transfer of an interest in intellectual property or other types of interests that are not a contractual right to payment of a monetary sum.

(5) The United States understands that, with respect to Article 24 of the Convention, the Article requires a Contracting State to provide a certain minimum level of rights to an assignee with respect to proceeds, but that it does not prohibit Contracting States from providing additional rights in such proceeds to such an assignee.

Sec. 3. Declarations to be Included in the Instrument of Ratification.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declara-

tions, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) Pursuant to Article 23(3), the United States declares that, in an insolvency proceeding of the assignor, the insolvency laws of the United States or its territorial units may under some circumstances—

(A) result in priority over the rights of an assignee being given to a lender extending credit to the insolvency estate, or to an insolvency administrator that expends funds of the insolvency estate for the preservation of the assigned receivables (see, for example, title 11 of the United States Code, sections 364(d) and 506(c)); or

(B) subject the assignment of receivables to avoidance rules, such as those dealing with preferences, undervalued transactions and transactions intended to defeat, delay, or hinder creditors of the assignor.

(2) Pursuant to Article 36 of the Convention, the United States declares that, with respect to an assignment of receivables governed by enactments of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in one of its territorial units, if an assignor's location pursuant to Article 5(h) of the Convention is the United States and, under the location rules contained in section 9-307 of the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in that territorial unit, the assignor is located in a territorial unit of the United States, that territorial unit is the location of the assignor for purposes of this Convention.

(3) Pursuant to Article 37 of the Convention, the United States declares that any reference in the Convention to the law of the United States means the law in force in the territorial unit thereof determined in accordance with Article 36 and the Article 5(h) definition of location. However, to the extent under the conflict-of-laws rules in force in that territorial unit, a particular matter would be governed by the law in force in a different territorial unit of the United States, the reference to "law of the United States" with respect to that matter is to the law in force in the different territorial unit. The conflict-of-laws rules referred to in the preceding sentence refer primarily to the conflict-of-laws rules in section 9-301 of the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in each State of the United States.

(4) Pursuant to Article 39 of the Convention, the United States declares that it will not be bound by chapter V of the Convention.

(5) Pursuant to Article 40, the United States declares that the Convention does not affect contractual anti-assignment provisions where the debtor is a governmental entity or an entity constituted for a public purpose in the United States.

Sec. 4. Self-Execution Declaration.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: This Convention is self-executing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KING):

S. 3427. A bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3428. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require warning labels for pre-

scription opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3429. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States to improve care for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome and their mothers and fathers or guardians under Medicaid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3430. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of certain seasonal airports; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3431. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to certain militias in Iraq that are backed by the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 3432. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 3433. A bill to exempt firefighters and police officers from the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions under the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. CASIDY):

S. 3434. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for grants to enable States to carry out activities to reduce administrative costs and burdens in health care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3435. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3436. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3437. A bill to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3438. A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the

public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 3439. A bill to redesignate the Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 625. A resolution designating the week beginning September 9, 2018, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 626. A resolution designating September 2018 as "National Voting Rights Month"; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 627. A resolution designating September 2018 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 628. A resolution to authorize document production by the Select Committee on Intelligence in United States v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr. (D.D.C.); considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. Con. Res. 46. A concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5895; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 635

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 732

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 732, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 797

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance matching grant program.

S. 835

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 835, a bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1143, a bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination on account of sexual orientation or gender identity when extending credit.

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1164, a bill to protect consumers from deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations, and for other purposes.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1328, a

bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1539

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 2006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2072

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2072, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take action to eliminate human exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2164, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2313

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were

added as cosponsors of S. 2313, a bill to deter foreign interference in United States elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2317

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2317, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for additional flexibility with respect to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 2554

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2554, a bill to ensure that health insurance issuers and group health plans do not prohibit pharmacy providers from providing certain information to enrollees.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 2572

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2572, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide advanced notice to Congress before changing any questions on the decennial census, and for other purposes.

S. 2584

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2584, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to address the opioid crisis.

S. 2785

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2785, a bill to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, and for other purposes.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 2852

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2852, a bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act.

S. 2902

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2902, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to facilitate Medicaid access to State prescription drug monitoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2905

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2905, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain integrity transparency measures under Medicare parts C and D.

S. 2909

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2909, a bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study and report on State Medicaid agencies' options related to the distribution of substance use disorder treatment medications under the Medicaid program.

S. 2911

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2911, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Medicaid items and services for non-opioid pain treatment and management.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2912, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish data related to the prevalence of substance use disorders in the Medicaid beneficiary population and the treatment of substance use disorders under Medicaid, and for other purposes.

S. 2918

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2918, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to help ensure coverage of inpatient treatment services furnished in institutions for mental disease.

S. 2961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2961, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 2971

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2971, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit animal fighting in the United States territories.

S. 3020

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3020, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 3032

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3032, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 3057

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3057, a bill to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail.

S. 3135

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3135, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes.

S. 3151

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3151, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 3170

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3170, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

S. 3247

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3247, a bill to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3257, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for serious violations of international law regarding the protection of civilians during armed conflict, and for other purposes.

S. 3290

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3290, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

S. 3298

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3298, a bill to extend the authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

S. 3321

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3321, a bill to award Congressional

Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden and to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson in recognition of their contributions to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

S. 3352

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3352, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 3354

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3354, a bill to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3419

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3419, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 481

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 481, a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 610

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 610, a resolution urging the release of information regarding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9, 2018, AS "NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALD-

WIN, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 625

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support that ensures that individuals with disabilities are—

- (1) included as a valued part of the community of the individual;
- (2) supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States; and
- (3) empowered to live with the dignity that all people of the United States deserve;

Whereas all communities have a stake in ensuring that individuals with disabilities thrive through the connections of the individuals to their families, friends, and communities, fostered by the direct support professionals of those individuals, so as to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals must build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support to individuals with disabilities, including—

- (1) assisting with the preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medication;
- (3) assisting with bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily living;
- (4) assisting with access to the environment of the individuals;
- (5) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and

(6) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests;

Whereas there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States;

Whereas direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting—

- (1) individuals who are receiving health care services for severe chronic health conditions and individuals with functional limitations; and

(2) the successful transition of individuals from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and services;

Whereas many direct support professionals are the primary financial providers for their families;

Whereas direct support professionals are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide an important service to people with disabilities in the United States, yet many continue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.* by Zimring, 527 U.S. 581 (June 22, 1999)—

- (1) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and

(2) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide community-based services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities if—

(A) the community-based services are appropriate;

(B) the affected person does not oppose receiving the community-based services; and

(C) the community-based services can be reasonably accommodated after the community has taken into account the resources available to the State and the needs of other individuals with disabilities in the State; and

Whereas, in 2018, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 9, 2018, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals for being integral to the provision of long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) encourages the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to collect data specific to direct support professionals; and

(6) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States depends on the dedication of direct support professionals.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senators COLLINS, KING, BROWN, MARKEY, MURPHY, MENENDEZ, WARREN, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, JONES, VAN HOLLEN, CASEY, BALDWIN, and DONNELLY to recognize the week beginning September 9th, 2018 as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week. Direct Support Professionals are an invaluable part of our Nation’s health care system, caring for the most vulnerable Americans, including the chronically ill, seniors, and those living with a disability. With the help of Direct Support Professionals, these individuals can perform daily activities that many people take for granted, such as eating, bathing, dressing, and leaving the house. The work of Direct Support Professionals ensures that these individuals can be active participants in their communities.

Let me share with you the experience of Euricka Stevens, a direct support professional who was recognized this year for her incredible work and dedication when she was given Maryland’s Direct Support Professional, DSP, of the Year Award by the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR. It was said of Euricka that she, “doesn’t see limitations or disabilities. She sees a person for their distinctive collection of traits and strengths and frailties and meets them there. She listens to the person and has an uncanny knack for unearthing what makes them remarkable.”

For example, there was an instance where a non-verbal individual was ex-

periencing distress. Euricka was able to patiently determine that he was bothered by noise and calmed by sitting in a recliner. Because of her efforts, this individual is now able to participate in the life of the center, and have his needs taken care of if he is showing signs of discomfort.

As Euricka’s story demonstrates, the job of a direct support professional is not easy. The hours are often long, and the wages are low. The job can be physically laborious, as well as emotionally draining. The reward for direct support professionals, however, is that they are able to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and help fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act by making it possible for these Americans to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

In our Nation, we are incredibly fortunate to have millions of service-oriented individuals who are willing to rise to the task of becoming a Direct Support Professional. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of DSPs is projected to grow by an average of 26 percent from 2014 to 2024, compared to a 7 percent average growth rate for all occupations during that period. Unfortunately, direct support professionals are often forced to leave the jobs they love due to low wages and excessive, difficult, work hours. Many Direct Support Professionals rely on public benefits, and some must work multiple jobs in order to provide for themselves and their families. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we work to ensure that these hard-working individuals have the income and emotional support they need and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senators COLLINS, KING, BROWN, MARKEY, MURPHY, MENENDEZ, WARREN, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, JONES, VAN HOLLEN, CASEY, BALDWIN, and DONNELLY in expressing our appreciation for the critically important work of our country’s Direct Support Professionals, in thanking them for their commitment and dedication, and in supporting the resolution designating the week beginning September 9, 2018, as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 626—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MONTH”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 626

Whereas voting is one of the single most important rights that can be exercised in a democracy;

Whereas over the course of history, various voter suppression laws in the United States have hindered, and even prohibited, certain individuals and groups from exercising the right to vote;

Whereas during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans and people who were born to United States citizens abroad, people who spoke a language other than English, and people who were formerly subjected to slavery were denied full citizenship and prevented from voting by English literacy tests;

Whereas from 1954 to 1968, minority groups such as African Americans in the South suffered from the oppressive effects of Jim Crow laws designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility;

Whereas African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underrepresented voters were subject to violence at polling stations, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, grandfather clauses, voter roll purges, and laws that prevented former prisoners from voting;

Whereas Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to protect the rights of African Americans and other traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote;

Whereas in 2013, the Supreme Court invalidated section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, dismantling the preclearance formula provision in that Act that protected voters in States that historically have suppressed the right of minorities to vote;

Whereas, since the invalidation of the preclearance formula provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, gerrymandered districts in many States have gone unchallenged or have become less likely to be invalidated by the courts;

Whereas gerrymandering has a discriminatory impact on traditionally disenfranchised minorities, including by—

(1) diluting the voting power of minorities across many districts (known as “cracking”); and

(2) concentrating the voting power of minorities in 1 district to reduce the voting power of minorities in other districts (known as “packing”);

Whereas the courts have found that the congressional and, in some cases, State legislative district maps, in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, and Wisconsin were gerrymandered with the intent of interfering with the constitutional right to vote;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to fix the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas some form of a restrictive voting law has been instituted in 33 States since 2013;

Whereas restrictive voting laws have resulted in cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, a requirement of photo identification, the procurement of which amounts to a modern day poll tax, and the elimination of same-day registration;

Whereas more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters could be disenfranchised by restrictive voting laws;

Whereas in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas have been ruled unconstitutional and overturned by the courts;

Whereas there are local elected officials who refuse to adhere to Federal court decisions that have struck down suppressive voting laws instituted since *Shelby County v. Holder*;

Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote;

Whereas “National Voter Registration Day” is September 25; and

Whereas the month of September is an appropriate month to designate as “National Voting Rights Month”: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of September 2018 as “National Voting Rights Month”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote; and

(3) to further the mission of allowing all citizens to vote, supports the following actions:

(A) The development by public schools and universities of an academic curriculum that educates students about—

(i) the importance of voting, how to register to vote, where to vote, and the different forms of voting;

(ii) the history of voter suppression in the United States before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.);

(iii) current issues relating to laws passed after 1965 that restrict the right to vote; and

(iv) the actions taken by State and Federal Government officials since passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that have created barriers to the exercise of the right to vote.

(B) During the month of September, the issuance of a special Fannie Lou Hamer stamp by the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service to remind people in the United States that ordinary citizens risked their lives, marched, and participated in the great democracy of the United States so that all citizens would have the fundamental right to vote.

(C) The allocation of requisite funds by Congress for public service announcements—

(i) to remind people in the United States when elections are being held and urge people to vote; and

(ii) through various forms of media, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, billboards, and buses.

(D) The passage of legislation by Congress to allow any citizen to be automatically registered to vote in Federal elections when that citizen reaches the age of 18 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 627—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 627

Whereas more than 288,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 17,700 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 victims of spinal cord injuries are veterans who suffered a spinal cord injury while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries and the third leading cause of traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas more than 50 percent of all spinal cord injuries to children under the age of 18 occur as a result of motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and

regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for victims of spinal cord injuries, improving the quality of life of victims of spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States that are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—TO AUTHORIZE DOCUMENT PRODUCTION BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE IN UNITED STATES V. PAUL J. MANAFORT, JR. (D.D.C.)

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 628

Whereas, the prosecution in *United States v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr.*, Cr. No. 17–201, currently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, has requested a copy of a transcript of an interview of W. Samuel Patten conducted by the Select Committee on Intelligence;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that documents, papers, and records under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to the prosecution in *United States v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr.*, under appropriate security procedures, a copy of the transcript of the Committee’s interview of W. Samuel Patten and exhibits referenced in the interview.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution on documentary production by the Select Committee on Intelligence, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Select Committee on Intelligence has received a request from the Department of Justice in a pending criminal case against Paul J. Manafort, Jr., for a copy of a transcript of an interview that the Committee staff conducted of a witness named W. Samuel Patten in January 2018.

In response to this request, this resolution would authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, acting jointly, to provide a copy of the interview transcript, under appropriate security procedures, to the prosecution, which intends to share it with the defense under a protective order entered in the case.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46—DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5895

Mr. SHELBY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 46

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5895, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction to the title so as to read: “Making consolidated appropriations for Energy and Water Development, the Legislative Branch, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4015. Mr. FLAKE (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1050, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

SA 4016. Mr. FLAKE (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3029, to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4015. Mr. FLAKE (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1050, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Chinese Americans served the United States in every conflict since the Civil War, and distinguished themselves in World War II, serving in every theater of war and every branch of service, earning citations for their heroism and honorable service, including the Medal of Honor;

(2) Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans faced institutional discrimination in the United States since before World War II, limiting the size of their population and their ability to build thriving communities in the United States;

(3) the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”,

approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), was the first Federal law that broadly restricted immigration and a specific nationality, making it illegal for Chinese laborers to immigrate to the United States and limiting the Chinese population in the United States for over 60 years;

(4) major court decisions such as the decisions in *Lum v. Rice*, 275 U.S. 78 (1927), and *People v. Hall*, 4 Cal. 399 (1854), found “yellow” races to be equal to African Americans with regard to “separate but equal” school facilities, and prohibited Chinese Americans, along with “Black, mulatto, or Indian” persons, from testifying against White men;

(5) Chinese Americans were harassed, beaten, and murdered because of their ethnicity, including the Chinese Massacre of 1871, where 17 Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles, California, were tortured and murdered, the Rock Springs Massacre of 1885 where White rioters killed 28 Chinese miners and burned 75 of their homes in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and the Hells Canyon Massacre of 1887 where 34 Chinese gold miners were ambushed and murdered in Hells Canyon, Oregon;

(6) there were only 78,000 Chinese Americans living on the United States mainland, with 29,000 living in Hawaii, at the start of World War II as result of Federal and State legislation and judicial decisions;

(7) despite the anti-Chinese discrimination at the time, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II, of whom, approximately 40 percent were not United States citizens due to the laws that denied citizenship to persons of Chinese descent;

(8) Chinese Americans, although small in numbers, made important contributions to the World War II effort;

(9) of the total Chinese Americans serving, approximately 25 percent served in the United States Army Air Force, with some sent to the China-Burma-India Theater with the 14th Air Service Group;

(10) the remainder of Chinese Americans who served in World War II served in all branches of the Armed Forces in all 4 theaters of war;

(11) the first all Chinese-American group was the 14th Air Service Group in the China-Burma-India Theater which enabled extensive and effective operations against the Japanese military in China;

(12) Chinese Americans are widely acknowledged for their role in the 14th Air Force, widely known as the Flying Tigers;

(13) Chinese Americans assigned to the China-Burma-India Theater made transoceanic journeys through hostile territories and were subject to enemy attack while at sea and in the air;

(14) in the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans were in ground, air, and ocean combat and support roles throughout the Pacific including New Guinea, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, Mariana Islands, and Aleutian Islands;

(15) throughout the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters, Chinese Americans performed vital functions in translating, coordinating Nationalist Chinese and United States combat operations, servicing and repairing aircraft and armaments, training Nationalist Chinese troops and sailors, delivering medical care, providing signal and communication support, gathering and analyzing intelligence, participating in ground and air combat, and securing and delivering supplies;

(16) Chinese Americans also served in combat and support roles in the European and African theaters, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, the Normandy D-Day invasion, which liberated Western Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge, occupying Western Ger-

many while helping to liberate Central Europe;

(17) Chinese Americans flew bomber missions, served in infantry units and combat ships in the Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air attacks;

(18) many Chinese-American women served in the Women’s Army Corps, the Army Air Forces, and the United States Naval Reserve Women’s Reserve, and some became pilots, air traffic controllers, flight trainers, weather forecasters, occupational therapists, and nurses;

(19) Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chinese American who served in World War II to have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military award given by the United States

(20) Chinese Americans also earned Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Cross, and Distinguished Flying Cross;

(21) units of the Armed Forces with Chinese Americans were also awarded unit citations for valor and bravery;

(22) the United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II displayed; and

(23) the commitment and sacrifice of Chinese Americans demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the face of discrimination.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Chinese-American Veterans of World War II” includes individuals of Chinese ancestry who served—

(A) honorably at any time during the period December 7, 1941, and ending December 31, 1946; and

(B) in an active duty status under the command of the Armed Forces; and

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II or with World War II.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under regulations that the Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck under this Act shall be a national medal for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SA 4016. Mr. FLAKE (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3029, to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act); as follows:

On page 16, line 22, insert “, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate,” after “Services”.

Beginning on page 16, line 24, strike “with-in” and all that follows through “Services” on page 17, line 1.

On page 17, line 11, insert “, and, as applicable, those in other departments,” after “Services”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DAINES. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Countering Russia: Assessing New Tools.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Sam Satterfield have privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Boy Scouts shouldn’t get a merit badge for telling the truth, and Senators shouldn’t get an award for passing an appropriations bill, because that is what we are supposed to do. But it is worth noting that for the first time in at least 10 years, these appropriations bills that we just passed are on time and within the budget Congress has set.

With this vote today, we are moving toward restoring the practice of regular order in the Senate from start to finish. This is what the right way means: hearings—we held three. Mark up the bills—all 12 bills are completed before the Fourth of July recess. Consult with other Senators—in the case of the Energy and Water appropriations bills, 87 Senators, we believe, had their wishes reflected in our bill. Floor debate, amendment votes, then a conference committee, and then we had the vote today.

I look forward to President Trump signing these appropriations bills into law. They will help to keep our country first in science, technology, and supercomputing, and they will build the ports and waterways that create jobs.

This bill supports funding for several important agencies, including the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Bureau of Reclamation, and regional commissions, including the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority.

The amount of funding in the bill is also consistent with spending caps agreed to as part of the bipartisan budget agreement. It sets priorities while reducing unnecessary spending.

Let me start with the Army Corps of Engineers, which affects the lives of almost every American. Based upon the appropriations request we received, this is the most popular agency in the budget. The Corps maintains our inland waterways; it deepens and keeps our ports open; it looks after our recreational waters and lands; it manages our rivers to prevent flooding; its dams provide emission-free, renewable hydroelectric energy. The bill restores \$2.3 billion that was cut from the President's budget request, bringing the Corps' budget up to \$6.999 billion—a new record level of funding in a regular appropriations bill.

For the fifth consecutive year, the bill makes full use of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund revenues for water infrastructure projects, including up to \$117.7 million to continue construction of Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga and \$2.125 million for dredging at Memphis Harbor McKellar Lake.

The bill also provides funding that exceeds the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, a spending target established by the Water Resources and Development Act of 2014. This is the fifth consecutive year that the bill has met or exceeded the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spending targets, which is necessary to adequately fund our Nation's harbors, including Mobile Harbor in Alabama, Savannah Harbor in Georgia, Long Beach Harbor in California, and many others across the country.

For the Department of Energy, for the fourth consecutive year, we have included record funding levels in a regular appropriations bill for the following activities: No. 1, for the Department's Office of Science. This is the Nation's largest support of research in the physical sciences. It is funded at \$6.5 billion, a new record funding level. The Office of Science provides funding for our 17 national laboratories—I call them our secret weapons—including the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. No other country has anything like them.

Let's take supercomputing. The bill provides a total of \$1.6 billion for high performance computing, including \$935 million within the Office of Science and \$723 million within the National

Nuclear Security Administration. This includes \$6.76 million to deliver at least one exascale machine in 2021 to reassert U.S. leadership in the critical area of supercomputing.

This accomplishment is not the result of 1 year of funding, but of 10 years of bipartisan effort through three different administrations, Democrat and Republican, to try to make sure that the United States is first in the world in supercomputing. We continue to do that in this appropriations bill.

Nuclear power is our best source of inexpensive, carbon-free baseload power. It is important for national security and competitiveness. Nuclear power provides 20 percent of our Nation's electricity and more than half of our carbon-free electricity. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees our 99 nuclear power reactors, is also funded in this bill. We wanted to make sure it is prepared to review applications for new reactors, particularly small modular reactors and advanced reactors, and to extend the licenses of existing nuclear reactors, if it is the safe thing to do.

The bill also provides \$47 million for research and development at the Department of Energy to support existing reactors, \$27 million for the Consortium for Advanced Simulation of Light Water Reactors, and \$30 million for the Transformational Challenge Reactor.

It advances efforts to clean up hazardous materials at Cold War-era sites. The bill provides \$7.2 billion to support cleanup efforts, which is \$578 million above the President's budget request.

A key pillar of our national defense is a strong nuclear deterrent. That is in this appropriations bill, as well, including \$11.1 billion for weapons activities within the NNSA, including nearly \$2 billion for six life extension programs, which fix or replace components in weapons systems to make sure they are safe and reliable. Congress must maintain a safe and effective nuclear weapons stockpile and keep big construction projects on time and on budget.

I want to compliment Senator FEINSTEIN, of California, my partner on the Energy and Water Subcommittee. We worked hard together on all aspects of this bill, but especially on keeping those big construction projects on time and on budget.

A principal reason the United States produces 24 percent of all the money in the world for just 5 percent of the people in the world is the extraordinary concentration of brain power in the United States supported by Federal dollars through our National Laboratories, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies. It is important that the American people know that the Republican majority in Congress worked together with Democrats to provide record levels of funding for science, research, and technology.

I would state to all of those who might not have noticed this quiet new

development that Congress is funding science and research at record levels, and if we continue to do so, we will make America more competitive and help spur innovation and create good-paying jobs.

A lot of hard work went into these negotiations over the last several months. Our staff members have worked over weekends and over vacations to make that happen, including the last few days. On my staff were Tyler Owens, Adam DeMella, Meyer Seligman, Jen Armstrong, Molly Marsh, and Rachel Littleton; on Senator FEINSTEIN's staff, Doug Clapp, Chris Hanson, Samantha Nelson; and on Senator SHELBY's staff, Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, and David Adkins. I am deeply grateful to them for their professionalism and their bipartisan work.

OPIOD LEGISLATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, now I would like to say a word about legislation that the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has described as landmark legislation, which I expect the Senate to move to early next week, and that is the legislation dealing with the most serious public health epidemic in America today, the opioid crisis.

We will be voting on the Opioid Crisis Response Act. This landmark legislation is the work of five different committees in the Senate. More than 70 Senators—half Republican, half Democrat—have provisions in this bill.

A big bill is hard to talk about, so let me just mention 10 key provisions: first, Senator PORTMAN's STOP Act to stop illegal drugs, including fentanyl, at the border coming through the mail; second, new nonaddictive painkillers, research and fast-track. I call this the holy grail of the opioids crisis because 100 million Americans hurt. They have pain; 25 million have chronic pain. They need help, and we need new non-addictive treatments to help them. Blister packs for opioids, such as a 3 to 5 days' supply—we authorized the FDA to require manufacturers to do that. More medication-assisted treatment, preventing doctor shopping by improving State prescription drug monitoring programs, and more behavioral and mental health providers. No. 7, support for comprehensive opioid recovery centers; No. 8, help for babies born in opioid withdrawal; No. 9, help for mothers with opioid use disorders, addicted to opioids; and No. 10, more early intervention with vulnerable children who have experienced trauma. Those are 10 of the 70 provisions that change the authorizing law, but in addition to that, we have placed unprecedented amounts of Federal dollars toward the opioid crisis.

In March, in the omnibus bill, Congress and the President directed \$4.7 billion toward the opioid crisis. Tomorrow, the conference committee considering the Labor, Health, and Human

Services, and Education Appropriations bill will meet. When that appropriations bill is approved, as we expect and hope it will be by the end of the month, that is another \$3.7 billion. So that is \$8.4 billion in the last few months that will have been directed toward the opioid crisis.

We have had seven hearings in our committee on opioids. On June 14, Becky Savage talked to us about two of her sons. She lost both of them after they accidentally overdosed on a combination of alcohol and opioids that they took in their own home after a graduation party.

At our hearing, Becky Savage said:

How could two boys who have always seemed to make good decisions in life make a choice that would ultimately cost them their lives? [H]ow did someone's prescription end up in the pocket of a teenager at a graduation party?

Nick and Jack were just two of the 33,000 Americans who died in 2015 from an opioid overdose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By 2016, the number had increased to 42,000 Americans. We suspect those numbers are even higher now. Last year, 1,776 Tennesseans died of a drug overdose, according to the Tennessee Department of Health, up from 1,630 the year before. We know that the opioid crisis is ravaging virtually every American community.

Becky Savage's story was just one of the heartbreaking stories the Senate HELP Committee heard last year in our seven hearings. Senator ISAKSON in Georgia told us of waking up to answer a phone call at 3 a.m. in December of 2016. His son John called to tell Senator ISAKSON that his grandson had passed away from an opioid overdose.

We heard Dr. Omar Abubaker, who lost his youngest son, Adam, 21 years old, after he overdosed on a mixture of heroin and benzodiazepines. At our hearing he said, "Since my son's death 3 years ago, more than 165,000 other parents in this country have experienced the same agony."

I imagine every Senator has heard heartbreaking stories of how the opioid crisis has impacted patients and children, doctors and nurses, entire communities in our States.

But at our hearings, we also heard stories of hope. Jessica Hulsey Nickel knows "firsthand the devastating impact that addiction can have on families," having lost both of her parents to addiction. Jessica has since dedicated her life to helping others battling the same disease.

Trish Tanner, the chief pharmacy officer at Ballad Health in Johnson City, TN, lost her nephew Dustin to an opioid overdose. As part of an executive fellowship program, she worked on a project on ways to reduce opioid prescribing, saying that "as Dustin's aunt and as a pharmacist, I have a duty and a desire to bring about change now."

To spread awareness and tell the story of losing her two sons, Becky Savage and her husband have created

the 525 Foundation in memory of Nick and Jack. When she testified before our committee, Becky told us that "you could have heard a pin drop in many of the auditoriums I speak in." After hearing her story, you could hear a pin drop in our committee room as well.

The challenge of solving the opioid crisis has been often been described as needing a moonshot. I wish we could do that. I wish we could appoint a single agency in Washington to solve this problem in every community in America, but what we have found is that will not work. Solving the opioid crisis might require the energy and resources of a moonshot, but ultimately it is not something that can be solved by a single agency here. What the Federal Government can do is create an environment so that everyone—Governors, mayors, judges, counselors, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, and families like the Savages—can succeed in fighting the crisis.

This is a package of more than 70 proposals from nearly three-quarters of the Members of the U.S. Senate—72 Members—that includes the work of five committees: the HELP Committee that I chair, the Finance, Judiciary, Commerce, and Banking Committees.

Since last October, the Senate HELP Committee, which I chair and Senator PATTY MURRAY of Washington is the ranking member of, has held seven hearings on the opioid crisis. We heard from Governors, from doctors, from addiction experts, family members, and others on how the Federal Government can be the best possible partner as we work to solve the crisis.

We took the input we heard at the first six hearings, and we turned it into a draft package of proposals, which Senator MURRAY and I released on April 5. On April 11, we held our seventh hearing to review the draft proposal. On April 17, we introduced an updated package of 40 proposals, based on the feedback we heard at the seventh hearing. On April 24, the Senate Health Committee voted 23 to 0 to pass this legislation, which included proposals from 38 different Senators.

Because this crisis is so widespread, the Finance, Judiciary, Commerce, and Banking Committees also have been working on their contributions to this bill.

On May 22, the Commerce Committee passed two provisions; May 24, the Judiciary passed six; June 12, the Finance Committee offered 22 more provisions. We have also included a provision that the Banking Committee has been working on.

Senator MURRAY and I have since worked with Senators HATCH, GRASSLEY, THUNE, WYDEN, FEINSTEIN, and NELSON to combine all of these proposals, along with other proposals, such as Senator PORTMAN's STOP Act, into one package of legislation—the Opioid Crisis Response Act. We thank all of them.

Over 20 Senators contributed to the Finance Committee provisions, 25 to

the Judiciary provisions, and 7 to the Commerce Committee's provisions. I think it is a testament to just how far-reaching this crisis is and why we feel a sense of bipartisan urgency in passing this legislation in the Senate and in the Congress.

In June the House of Representatives passed its own package of legislation to fight the opioid crisis by a vote of 396 to 14. The Senate and House staff combined our legislation and what the House has passed, and we believe it will produce an even stronger bill to fight the crisis.

My hope is that the five Senate committees will work quickly with our House colleagues to reach an agreement by September 21, so the House can pass a final opioids package, the Senate can pass it, and we can send it to the President's desk as quickly as possible. That is the bipartisan sense of urgency I feel so that we can help States and communities fight the opioid crisis.

This act builds on the work already done—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, passed in 2016, which gave a substantial boost to States on the frontlines, providing grants to expand access to lifesaving opioid overdose reversal medications and to support State efforts to help individuals.

Later in 2016, Congress enacted the 21st Century Cures Act, which included \$1 billion over 2 years in State grants to fight the crisis. It sought to accelerate research for major discoveries, like new nonaddictive pain medicines, which, as I mentioned, I believe is the Holy Grail of solving the opioid crisis.

Then, the omnibus appropriations bill in March provided \$4.7 billion of funding, and \$1 billion of that is for grants. We believe another \$3.7 billion is coming from the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, which we hope to pass this month.

According to Senator BLUNT, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Federal funding to help combat the opioid epidemic has increased nearly 1,300 percent over the past 4 years. The bill we are voting on next week builds on this funding.

So we will be passing the STOP Act, new nonaddictive painkillers, blister packs for opioids, more medication-assisted treatment, and efforts to prevent doctor shopping, to provide more behavioral and mental health providers, to support comprehensive opioid recovery centers, and to provide help for babies born in opioid withdrawal, help for mothers with opioid use disorders, and more early intervention with vulnerable children who have experienced trauma. These are just a portion of the more than 70 provisions in the Opioid Crisis Response Act.

This is, as the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has said, "landmark legislation" that represents the work

of nearly three-fourths of the Senate, five committees, and countless staff who have worked to try to help States and communities put an end to this crisis that is ravaging virtually every community in America.

The House of Representatives has passed its version. We have our bipartisan urgency to work together. No mother should have to go through what Becky Savage has gone through. It is time to finish our work and help States and communities bring an end to the opioid crisis. This legislation would give us many of the tools we need to do just that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, in the annals of "President's Say the Darndest Things," last week's Twitter outburst will stand out, at least for me, because the President attacked the Attorney General of the United States for simply doing the job he swore an oath to do.

Of course, it wasn't the first time the President has so diminished himself, but this particular slander was leveled at the Attorney General for having the temerity to prosecute public corruption by Members of Congress who also happen to belong to the President's political party.

That is right. The President attacked Mr. Sessions by name for refusing to cover up allegations of Republican misconduct. The President's concern was not for justice but for the political fortunes of the accused, because their congressional seats might now be at risk of falling to Democrats. In doing this, the President is projecting a vision onto the system of American justice that is both bizarre and, more importantly, destructive.

Of course, the only truly shocking thing about this statement from the President is that, given what all of us have become accustomed to during this Presidency—or, even worse, have become numb to—this Twitter eruption was not at all surprising. This numb acceptance is an appalling statement on the very real threat to our democratic institutions.

At this point, it might be too late for tutorials on the American justice system, but it certainly bears repeating that in order for justice to truly be served, justice must be based in empirical truth and must be absolutely carried out independent of politics, period.

No President—any President—administers the justice system in America, any more than he or she decrees what is objective truth. In this country, justice and truth operate quite independent of the dictates of even the most powerful of offices.

The reasons for this point are obvious to most, but we know by now that this particular President seems to have a profound unease with both justice and truth and so has been at unrelent-

ing war with both, virtually since the moment he swore the oath—not because there is any deficiency in justice or truth that requires his intervention, mind you, but for other less noble reasons. The President seems to think that the office confers on him the ability to decide who and what gets investigated in the United States and who and what does not.

Weekly, it seems, this President has been threatening to "get involved" in the function of the Justice Department—sometimes intimidating, sometimes plainly threatening to corrupt the independence of justice in America.

He has overtly expressed a desire for his political opponents to be investigated, and almost 2 years into his Presidency, he presides over boisterous rallies where the last election is relitigated and chants of "lock her up" fill the halls.

None of this is normal or acceptable, but his is not mere recklessness. It seems to be a deliberate program, by which he intends to weaken the institution of American justice, threaten its independence, and perhaps set the stage for some future assault on it—the firing of the attorney general, the deputy attorney general, and perhaps even the special counsel.

It has been said that the President deserves to have an attorney general of his choice, a top lawyer with whom he is compatible. This is true. The President's appointment powers are clear, and all of his appointees serve at the pleasure of the President. But what no President deserves is a top lawyer who is simply there to do his bidding. The Attorney General is not the President's personal lawyer, and his job is not to protect the President from damaging facts or to turn the power of American justice onto the President's enemies or to direct Justice Department investigations in any particular way that is either politically motivated or pre-supposes guilt or innocence or favors any outcome whatsoever, other than that which is supported by the evidence and truth. The Attorney General's job description, as tweeted last week by the President, bears scant resemblance to the Attorney General's job in a constitutional democracy.

So I rise today because the Founders gave us the article I branch of this government that they conceived and the responsibility to curb such reckless behavior.

Thus far, I believe we have all been so incredulous at the daily excess and ever hopeful—hopeful beyond any reason—that this President would at last begin to inhabit the office in a more responsible fashion that we have been somewhat uncertain what to do.

First and foremost, we must speak out. We cannot be quiet when the moment requires us to defend the democratic norms under which this system functions, and without which our system ceases to function. The President has repeatedly and over time heedlessly breached these norms. If we say

nothing, then, we become accomplices in the destruction of these democratic norms.

The Senate is not the place to come for deniability. We must do what we can to curb the destructive impulses of this White House. We must encourage the administration of justice. That means voicing our support for Mr. Mueller and his team. We have passed bipartisan legislation out of the Senate Judiciary Committee—legislation to protect the special counsel. I call on the majority leader to bring this legislation to the Senate floor.

We must also say in no uncertain terms that to call this investigation a "witch hunt" is wrong. To call Mr. Mueller's team "thugs" is wrong. Relentlessly slandering the Attorney General of the United States is wrong. It is a travesty, and it is unbecoming of the Office of the Presidency.

I would say to the Attorney General: Stand firm. You spent your life in public service, in the service of your country. At the risk of being presumptuous, I will say that these days of your service, right now, during this crucial period in which we have a President who in a malign fashion is actively testing the limits of his power and the independence of American justice, your determination to safeguard the independence of the Justice Department at the same time that you have been under assault by the President has verged on heroic. In your long career, you will render no more consequential service to your country. Stand firm, Attorney General Sessions.

I appeal to the leadership of this body to speak out. You don't have to speak out at every Twitter outburst, but when the President so blatantly calls for the Department of Justice to act as an arm of the Republican Party, then, the leaders of the Republican Party in this body need to stand and say that the President is out of bounds.

We all have our pulls to conscience. Most recently for me, I hear the whisper so well described a few weeks ago—the whisper over my shoulder that says: We are better than this. America is better than this. In a time of rank tribalism, we need to remember that we are all Americans. That is our only tribe. It is to the rule of law and the ideals of our founding that we owe our allegiance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 933, 934.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Cherith Norman Chalet, of New Jersey, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and Cherith Norman Chalet, of New Jersey, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Chalet and Chalet nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERAN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1050 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1050) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the Duckworth amendment which is at the desk be agreed to and that the

bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4015) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Chinese Americans served the United States in every conflict since the Civil War, and distinguished themselves in World War II, serving in every theater of war and every branch of service, earning citations for their heroism and honorable service, including the Medal of Honor;

(2) Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans faced institutional discrimination in the United States since before World War II, limiting the size of their population and their ability to build thriving communities in the United States;

(3) the Act entitled "An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese", approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the "Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882") (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), was the first Federal law that broadly restricted immigration and a specific nationality, making it illegal for Chinese laborers to immigrate to the United States and limiting the Chinese population in the United States for over 60 years;

(4) major court decisions such as the decisions in *Lum v. Rice*, 275 U.S. 78 (1927), and *People v. Hall*, 4 Cal. 399 (1854), found "yellow" races to be equal to African Americans with regard to "separate but equal" school facilities, and prohibited Chinese Americans, along with "Black, mulatto, or Indian" persons, from testifying against White men;

(5) Chinese Americans were harassed, beaten, and murdered because of their ethnicity, including the Chinese Massacre of 1871, where 17 Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles, California, were tortured and murdered, the Rock Springs Massacre of 1885 where White rioters killed 28 Chinese miners and burned 75 of their homes in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and the Hells Canyon Massacre of 1887 where 34 Chinese gold miners were ambushed and murdered in Hells Canyon, Oregon;

(6) there were only 78,000 Chinese Americans living on the United States mainland, with 29,000 living in Hawaii, at the start of World War II as result of Federal and State legislation and judicial decisions;

(7) despite the anti-Chinese discrimination at the time, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II, of whom, approximately 40 percent were not United States citizens due to the laws that denied citizenship to persons of Chinese descent;

(8) Chinese Americans, although small in numbers, made important contributions to the World War II effort;

(9) of the total Chinese Americans serving, approximately 25 percent served in the United States Army Air Force, with some sent to the China-Burma-India Theater with the 14th Air Service Group;

(10) the remainder of Chinese Americans who served in World War II served in all branches of the Armed Forces in all 4 theaters of war;

(11) the first all Chinese-American group was the 14th Air Service Group in the China-Burma-India Theater which enabled extensive and effective operations against the Japanese military in China;

(12) Chinese Americans are widely acknowledged for their role in the 14th Air Force, widely known as the Flying Tigers;

(13) Chinese Americans assigned to the China-Burma-India Theater made transoceanic journeys through hostile territories and were subject to enemy attack while at sea and in the air;

(14) in the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans were in ground, air, and ocean combat and support roles throughout the Pacific including New Guinea, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, Mariana Islands, and Aleutian Islands;

(15) throughout the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters, Chinese Americans performed vital functions in translating, coordinating Nationalist Chinese and United States combat operations, servicing and repairing aircraft and armaments, training Nationalist Chinese troops and sailors, delivering medical care, providing signal and communication support, gathering and analyzing intelligence, participating in ground and air combat, and securing and delivering supplies;

(16) Chinese Americans also served in combat and support roles in the European and African theaters, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, the Normandy D-Day invasion, which liberated Western Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge, occupying Western Germany while helping to liberate Central Europe;

(17) Chinese Americans flew bomber missions, served in infantry units and combat ships in the Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air attacks;

(18) many Chinese-American women served in the Women's Army Corps, the Army Air Forces, and the United States Naval Reserve Women's Reserve, and some became pilots, air traffic controllers, flight trainers, weather forecasters, occupational therapists, and nurses;

(19) Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chinese American who served in World War II to have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military award given by the United States

(20) Chinese Americans also earned Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Cross, and Distinguished Flying Cross;

(21) units of the Armed Forces with Chinese Americans were also awarded unit citations for valor and bravery;

(22) the United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II displayed; and

(23) the commitment and sacrifice of Chinese Americans demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the face of discrimination.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Chinese-American Veterans of World War II" includes individuals of Chinese ancestry who served—

(A) honorably at any time during the period December 7, 1941, and ending December 31, 1946; and

(B) in an active duty status under the command of the Armed Forces; and

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II or with World War II.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under regulations that the Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck under this Act shall be a national medal for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1050), as amended, was passed.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 576 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 576) designating September 4, 2018, as “National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Day”, and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 576) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 18, 2018, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

PREEMIE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 503, S. 3029.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3029) to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act of 2018” or the “PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS.

Section 2 of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors relating” and inserting “factors relating to prematurity, such as clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors, and other determinants that contribute to health disparities and are related”; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “concerning the progress and any results of studies conducted under paragraph (1)” and inserting “regarding activities and studies conducted under paragraph (1), including any applicable analyses of preterm birth. Such report shall be posted on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services.”;

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:
“(c) PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SURVEY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

“(1) continue systems for the collection of maternal-infant clinical and biomedical information, including electronic health records, electronic databases, and biobanks, to link with the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and other epidemiological studies of prematurity in order to track, to the extent practicable, all pregnancy outcomes and prevent preterm birth; and

“(2) provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to support States in improving the collection of information pursuant to this subsection.”; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking “except for subsection (c), \$1,880,000 for each of fiscal years

2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

Section 399Q of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-5) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking “conduct demonstration projects” and inserting “conduct activities, which may include demonstration projects”; and
(B) by striking “for babies born preterm” and inserting “mothers of infants born preterm, and infants born preterm, as appropriate”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “under the demonstration project”;
(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “programs to test and evaluate various strategies to provide” and inserting “programs, including those to test and evaluate strategies, which, in collaboration with States, localities, tribes, and community organizations, support the provision of”;
(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:
“(B) evidence-based strategies to prevent preterm birth and associated outcomes;”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting “, and the risks of non-medically indicated deliveries before full term” before the semicolon;

(v) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—
(I) in clause (ii), by inserting “intake” before the semicolon;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vii); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (iii), the following:

“(iv) screening for and treatment of substance use disorders;

“(v) screening for and treatment of maternal depression;

“(vi) maternal immunization; and”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and
(viii) by striking subparagraph (G), as so redesignated; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, as well as prevention of a future preterm birth” before the semicolon.

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH.

Section 104(b) of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and recommendations to the Secretary concerning the following activities” and inserting “, recommendations, or information to the Secretary as may be necessary to improve activities and programs to reduce severe maternal morbidity, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and preterm birth, which may include recommendations, advice, or information related to the following”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants” and inserting “, preterm birth, and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants, and information on cost-effectiveness and outcomes of such programs”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Implementation of the” and inserting “The”; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) Implementation of Healthy People objectives related to maternal and infant health.

“(E) Strategies to reduce racial, ethnic, geographic, and other health disparities in birth

outcomes, including by increasing awareness of Federal programs related to appropriate access to, or information regarding, prenatal care to address risk factors for preterm labor and delivery.

“(F) Strategies, including the implementation of such strategies, to address gaps in Federal research, programs, and education efforts related to the prevention of severe maternal morbidity, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3); and (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018, and every 2 years thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall—

“(A) publish a report summarizing activities and recommendations of the Advisory Committee since the publication of the previous report;

“(B) submit such report to the Secretary and the appropriate Committees of Congress; and

“(C) post such report on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services.”.

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, may establish an interagency working group in order to improve coordination of programs and activities to prevent preterm birth, infant mortality, and related adverse birth outcomes.

(b) DUTIES.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify gaps, unnecessary duplication, and opportunities for improved coordination in Federal programs and activities related to preterm birth and infant mortality;

(2) assess the extent to which the goals and metrics of relevant programs and activities within the Department of Health and Human Services, and, as applicable, those in other departments, are aligned; and

(3) assess the extent to which such programs are coordinated across agencies within such Department; and

(4) make specific recommendations, as applicable, to reduce or minimize gaps and unnecessary duplication, and improve coordination of goals, programs, and activities across agencies within such Department.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the working group is established under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the findings of the working group under subsection (b) and the specific recommendations to improve Federal programs at the Department of Health and Human Services under subsection (b)(4).

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4016) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify provisions relating to the interagency working group)

On page 16, line 22, insert “, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate,” after “Services”.

Beginning on page 16, line 24, strike “with-in” and all that follows through “Services” on page 17, line 1.

On page 17, line 11, insert “, and, as applicable, those in other departments,” after “Services”.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3029), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3029

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 “Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act of 2018” or the “PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS.

Section 2 of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors relating” and inserting “factors relating to prematurity, such as clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors, and other determinants that contribute to health disparities and are related”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “concerning the progress and any results of studies conducted under paragraph (1)” and inserting “regarding activities and studies conducted under paragraph (1), including any applicable analyses of preterm birth. Such report shall be posted on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services.”;

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SURVEY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

“(1) continue systems for the collection of maternal-infant clinical and biomedical information, including electronic health records, electronic databases, and biobanks, to link with the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and other epidemiological studies of prematurity in order to track, to the extent practicable, all pregnancy outcomes and prevent preterm birth; and

“(2) provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to support States in improving the collection of information pursuant to this subsection.”; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking “except for subsection (c), \$1,880,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

Section 399Q of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-5) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “conduct demonstration projects” and inserting “conduct activities, which may include demonstration projects”; and

(B) by striking “for babies born preterm” and inserting “mothers of infants born preterm, and infants born preterm, as appropriate”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “under the demonstration project”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “programs to test and evaluate various strategies to provide” and inserting “programs, including those to test and evaluate strategies, which, in collaboration with States, localities, tribes, and community organizations, support the provision of”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

“(B) evidence-based strategies to prevent preterm birth and associated outcomes;”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting “, and the risks of non-medically indicated deliveries before full term” before the semicolon;

(v) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) in clause (ii), by inserting “intake” before the semicolon;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vii); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (iii), the following:

“(iv) screening for and treatment of substance use disorders;

“(v) screening for and treatment of maternal depression;

“(vi) maternal immunization; and”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(viii) by striking subparagraph (G), as so redesignated; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, as well as prevention of a future preterm birth” before the semicolon.

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH.

Section 104(b) of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and recommendations to the Secretary concerning the following activities” and inserting “, recommendations, or information to the Secretary as may be necessary to improve activities and programs to reduce severe maternal morbidity, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and preterm birth, which may include recommendations, advice, or information related to the following”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants” and inserting “, preterm birth, and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants, and information on cost-effectiveness and outcomes of such programs”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Implementation of the” and inserting “The”; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) Implementation of Healthy People objectives related to maternal and infant health.

“(E) Strategies to reduce racial, ethnic, geographic, and other health disparities in birth outcomes, including by increasing awareness of Federal programs related to appropriate access to, or information regarding, prenatal care to address risk factors for preterm labor and delivery.

“(F) Strategies, including the implementation of such strategies, to address gaps in Federal research, programs, and education efforts related to the prevention of severe maternal morbidity, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018, and every 2 years thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall—

“(A) publish a report summarizing activities and recommendations of the Advisory Committee since the publication of the previous report;

“(B) submit such report to the Secretary and the appropriate Committees of Congress; and

“(C) post such report on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services.”.

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, may establish an interagency working group in order to improve coordination of programs and activities to prevent preterm birth, infant mortality, and related adverse birth outcomes.

(b) DUTIES.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify gaps, unnecessary duplication, and opportunities for improved coordination in Federal programs and activities related to preterm birth and infant mortality;

(2) assess the extent to which the goals and metrics of relevant programs and activities within the Department of Health and Human Services, and, as applicable, those in other departments, are aligned; and

(3) assess the extent to which such programs are coordinated across agencies within such Department; and

(4) make specific recommendations, as applicable, to reduce or minimize gaps and unnecessary duplication, and improve coordination of goals, programs, and activities across agencies within such Department.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the working group is established under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the findings of the working group under subsection (b) and the specific recommendations to improve Federal programs at the Department of Health and Human Services under subsection (b)(4).

NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to S. Res. 525.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 525) designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 525) was agreed to.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 24, 2018, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 627, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 627) designating September 2018 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 627) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

AUTHORIZING DOCUMENT PRODUCTION BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 628, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 628) to authorize document production by the Select Committee on Intelligence in United States v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr. (D.D.C.).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and

laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 628) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Thursday, September 13, at 9:45 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, September 13, it next convene at 2 p.m., Monday, September 17, and 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; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business and notwithstanding the orders of September 6, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6 and that debate time on H.R. 6 and S. 2554 run concurrently, be equally divided in the usual form, and be considered expired at 5:30 p.m., and that the Senate then proceed to votes in relation to S. 2554 and H.R. 6, with all other provisions under the previous orders remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:52 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 13, 2018, 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EARLE D. LITZENBERGER, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

PATRICIA MAHONEY, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN.

JOHN MARK POMERSHEIM, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN.

AUSTIN M. SMITH, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

AUSTIN M. SMITH, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY G. FAY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

KURT J. CYR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN D. MCMANUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

EDWARD J. MALONEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CRAIG S. GATZEMEYER

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

*RAE OLIVER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 12, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

CHARLES P. RETTIG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE FOR THE TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 12, 2022.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 12, 2018 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

STEVEN GARDNER, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, VICE JOSEPH G. PIZARCHIK, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and sincere appreciation that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2018 theme, Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance our Traditions. From September 15, 2018, through October 15, 2018, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and reflect on the many outstanding contributions our Hispanic brothers and sisters have made throughout our country's history.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the tremendous impact Hispanic Americans have had within their communities and throughout our nation. The tireless efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans have resulted in a better America.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of our society.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to once again join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and will continue to play a major role in enriching the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of our respect and gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION, PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THEIR DESTINY FOR THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND EURASIA WEEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Con-

gressional Ukraine Caucus to introduce a Joint Resolution, which reaffirms the sovereignty and the freedom to choose their destiny for the people of Europe and Eurasia.

Since the fall of communism, the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia have made great progress in developing democratic institutions, free markets, and strong civil societies. Many have demonstrated their commitment to these important ideals through their accession in liberal institutions such as the European Union and that NATO Alliance, which are critical to our national security.

Indeed, the American people have stood with freedom-lovers across this region, to spread the blessings of liberty and democracy to these nations. For this reason since 1959, the President of the United States has proclaimed the third week of July as "Captive Nations Week." This very special occasion shined a light on the plight of nations oppressed by Soviet Russian regime, and continues to reaffirm America's commitment to those dedicated to democracy, rule of law, freedom, and justice.

Tragically, Russia's thirst for power would seek to thwart the forward progress of these nations. Russia seeks to undermine democratic institutions, and thus strengthen its dictatorial and tyrannical hold on that region through hybrid warfare. This includes election meddling, disinformation campaigns, extrajudicial assassinations, the intimidation of journalists, and other forms of despicable behavior. Russia invaded and illegally occupies regions of Ukraine and Georgia, and seeks to rip away these nations' ability to choose their democratic future. It is a shame to have such bestial behavior on this earth.

This resolution builds on the "Captive Nations Week" Resolution, and invites the President through an annual proclamation to set the record straight that all nations have the right to self-determination, territorial sovereignty, and to choose their own destinies. It sends a message to our partners in the region that we stand with those that embrace liberty, instead of those that seek to tear it down. By standing together, we ensure a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND MARIA STONE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful Texans, Maria and Richard Stone, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on November 14, 2018.

In addition to being a living husband and father, Richard is a decorated Army veteran who honorably served for over 25 years, including two tours in Vietnam. He then worked for the government in logistics at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He received the Bronze Star, Army

Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the German Army Marksman badge in bronze.

Maria and Richard now reside in Frisco, Texas. Congratulations to them on this 60 years of marriage together. May they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF A CONCERT COMMEMORATING THE SACRIFICE OF CZECH, SLOVAK, AND CROATIAN PEOPLES IN WORLD WAR I

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an event taking place in my district, the Fifth District of Missouri, at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. On September 13, 2018, the Concert to Commemorate Sacrifice will take place in remembrance of the immense sacrifice of the Czech, Slovak, and Croatian peoples, as well as the centennial of their independence and an end to the Great War. This concert is provided by a global partnership between the National World War I Museum and Memorial, the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City, University of Missouri—Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, Embassies of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, the Republic of Croatia, and the honorary consuls of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Republic of Croatia in Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS.

A plethora of works from the Czech, Slovak, and Croatian lands will be performed under the direction of William A. Everett, the Curators' Distinguished Professor of Musicology at UMKC; guest conductor and pianist, Ivan Pernicki of Zagreb, Croatia; and Music Director, Rick Mikesic. The concert will prominently feature the national anthems of the United States of America and of the Republics of Czech, Slovak, and Croatia, along with works by famed Czech, Slovak, and Croatian composers such as: Fratišek Drdla, Rudolf Friml, Dora Pjačević, Josip Stolcer-Slavenski, Ján Levoslav Bella, Franjo Marković, Ivan Zajc and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the valiant service and sacrifice of the Czechoslovak Legion contributed to the formation of a sovereign Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Republic of Croatia. The Czechoslovak Legionnaires were an entirely voluntary force of 100,000 strong and their contribution to the war effort spanned many conflicts among every front of the war. I cannot think of a more fitting way to honor the sacrifice of these individuals than by a performance of their adopted battle cry, the "U boj", at a concert in their honor, held at a memorial dedicated to all lives lost in World War I.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the centennial of the end of World War I and the many military and civilian lives lost in that conflict and recognizing those who have come together for the Concert to Commemorate Sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER JOHN BOUGHTON

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Chief Petty Officer John Boughton for his service to both the Third Congressional District of Colorado and the entire nation.

Officer Boughton dedicated 24 years of his life serving in the United States Navy. Once his honorable service came to an end, he used his wealth of military experience to enhance the lives of others in his community, spending 16 years as a naval science instructor at Montrose High School and Olathe High School. His work in the school system helped build the character of countless hundreds of young men and women who served as his cadets in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC).

Chief Boughton played an integral role in taking the Montrose High School and Olathe High School NJROTC program to the nationally recognized competitive state championship on three separate occasions. Both schools' teams made their mark as a drill and marksmanship team, becoming nationally ranked in shooting for over 10 years. Chief Boughton's extraordinary care and dedication, positioned his cadets to achieve such success. To create additional growth opportunities for his students, Chief Boughton built the school district's first STEM Sea Perch Tank and began holding Sea Perch Competition games for area cadets several years ago.

As a result of his hard work and commitment to his students, Chief Boughton has been awarded several honors by various organizations in his community. Chief Boughton was named the Colorado Citizen Education Teacher of the Year in 2011 and 2012 by the Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has also been nominated three times for the Montrose County School District Teacher of the Year during his tenure as a NJROTC instructor.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Boughton has spent his life in service to his country, his community and his students. His work has had an indelible impact and it is my honor to acknowledge his achievements, as well as express heartfelt gratitude for his service. I wish him luck in his future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST
AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND
RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING
THE TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on the 17th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers.

The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other.

It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

Seventeen years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175.

When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms.

And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as I any of the many of us who loved them lives.

Mr. Speaker, as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11.

On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats.

There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters.

We were not Red State or Blue State.

We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness.

We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

We lit candles, held hands, helped neighbors, and prayed for our country and its leaders.

A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan.

As President George W. Bush announced to the American people and to the world: "Whether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done."

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Americans take care of their own.

Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty.

And Americans want peace.

Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that American is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed seven-teen years ago today.

We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives.

We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss.

We can do this. We must do this. After all, we are Americans.

2018 LUMINARY AWARDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend the recipients of this year's NIPSCO Luminary Awards. The Luminary Awards were created to honor prominent individuals or organizations for their exemplary leadership. This year's honorees include Dr. Vanessa Allen-McCloud, The Nature Conservancy, Junior Achievement of Chicago, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, Denarie Kane, and the Multi Agency Academic Cooperative (MAAC) Foundation. For their outstanding contributions to the community in Northwest Indiana and beyond, the honorees will be recognized at a ceremony on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at NiSource Corporate Headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana.

Dr. Vanessa Allen-McCloud, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, is this year's recipient of the Community Leadership Award. For her remarkable dedication to public and social service, Dr. Allen-McCloud is worthy of the highest praise.

The recipient of this year's Environmental Stewardship Award is The Nature Conservancy. The organization has protected millions of acres of land and thousands of rivers throughout the world. We are truly grateful for their conservation efforts, here in the community of Northwest Indiana, and beyond.

The Education Award will be presented to Junior Achievement of Chicago and Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana. These economic and mentoring programs prepare students to achieve success and have made a tremendous positive impact on the youth of

our communities. We are truly thankful for their great work.

Denarie Kane, director of development for the city of Hobart, is this year's recipient of the Economic Development Award. The city of Hobart is thriving and will continue to flourish due to Ms. Kane's outstanding leadership and direction, and for her devotion and hard work, she is to be highly commended.

The Multi Agency Academic Cooperative Foundation is the recipient of the Public Safety Award. This noteworthy organization offers safety training opportunities for first responders and provides important public safety for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in commending these remarkable leaders, innovators, and organizations. For their outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents, each recipient is worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOHN GEORGE ZARCARO

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember John George Zarcaro who passed away on August 18, 2018 at the age of 85 from a rare and aggressive type of kidney cancer.

The son of two Italian immigrants, John was born May 6, 1933, in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He graduated high school from LaSalle Military Academy in Long Island, New York. Much to his mother's chagrin, he went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

After college, John joined the United States Navy and became a pilot. He flew several planes, but his favorite was the A-4 Skyhawk. John often told the story of flying an S2F Tracker over the Atlantic during a storm when he bypassed landing on a Navy carrier thirteen times because of the ferocious pitch of the sea in darkness. When Zarcaro finally landed the plane on the carrier, the crew celebrated this act (a ship record) by baking him a cake. The story illustrates much about this remarkable man: grace under pressure, determination and skill, and humility.

John continued to serve the country when he joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during Project Mercury. In 1984, he started his own business, Geo-Control Systems, with the help of friends and investors. There, Zarcaro continued his service to the space program. He loved his military and civil service careers and treasured his time working with the immensely talented men and women of this nation's space program.

John or "Z", as many of his friends knew him, spent a lifetime cultivating happiness, adventure, and joy. He met the love of his life, Rose Veronica Gonzalez, in Kingsville, Texas, and they married October 4, 1957. Rose and John celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and a lifetime of love last year with their family.

John leaves behind a family that will miss him greatly: his loving wife Rose; son John Jo-

seph, daughter-in-law Sandy, and grandchildren John Anthony, Ariana, Sophie, and Nicholas; son Michael, daughter-in-law Sarah, and grandchildren Michael and Emily; daughter Rosanne and partner Chuck, and son Anthony.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Space, it is my honor to remember the life of space pioneer, John George Zarcaro.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND JIM CRAGO

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Linda and Jim Crago of Diagonal, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER RYAN CUENI

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Painesville Police Officer Ryan Cueni for receiving the Medal of Honor on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. Officer Cueni was awarded the honor by the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association for his actions of bravery taken when facing an armed suspect on February 2, 2017. After responding to a reported break-in, Officer Cueni and his partner arrived to the scene to an armed suspect holding a mother at knifepoint while her two children were hiding.

Without regard for his own safety, Officer Cueni climbed over a dresser, turning his back to the armed suspect, and ushered both children to safety. Officer Cueni proceeded to free the mother from knifepoint. The suspect was ultimately tasered by Officer Cueni's partner. Because of Officer Cueni's bravery, all three victims were unharmed.

I am extremely proud to have such a courageous and hardworking officer in my district. After 21 years of service, the City of Painesville is honored to have Officer Cueni protecting its citizens.

CELEBRATING CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP'S BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Conewago Township on its 200th Anniversary.

Conewago Township formally was created in 1818 from portions of Newberry and Dover Townships. The name "Conewago" is of Iroquois Native American origin, meaning "at the rapids." The Township's authentic natural beauty, underscored by its rolling hills and rich farmland, give our residents great sense of pride in our community. In the past eight years alone, Conewago Township has undergone a significant housing boon, increasing its population from 7,510 to almost 9,000, an increase of nearly 20 percent.

Conewago is the home to two villages, Zion View and Strinestown, the latter being founded in 1800. Residents are hard-working and selfless; their generosity of spirit is perhaps best exemplified in the 200th Anniversary celebration itself; while they will mark a significant milestone in their community's history, they also will have a Red Cross blood drive and donate to Northeastern Food Bank.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 4th District, I commend and congratulate Conewago Township, Pennsylvania, on its 200th Anniversary and wish our residents the very best in their future adventures.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL NEUENFELDT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Neuenfeldt who is retiring as President of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO after 8 years of service in the role. Phil began his career on the shop floor in the manufacturing sector, as an active member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He held various positions of leadership in his local union, including Chair of the bargaining committee where he fought for fair contracts and improved health and safety conditions for fellow workers.

Prior to his election as President of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, Phil served as both the Secretary-Treasurer and Legislative Director there. As Legislative Director, Phil Neuenfeldt worked tirelessly to strengthen the Wisconsin labor movement. He advanced a working family agenda which included: expanded ability for workers to organize, protected prevailing wage, defended the Family and Medical Leave Act, promoted teaching labor education in schools, pushed for fair tax codes and closing of corporate loopholes, fought against the privatization of public service jobs and promoted the creation and retention of manufacturing jobs. Phil as President was a central member in the broad coalition that was created to fight back against egregious attacks on labor in 2011 and 2012, and served as a spark that reignited our labor

movement in Wisconsin, the nation and around the world.

Phil has been a proponent of developing strategies to upgrade worker skills and address changes in technology and the economy including initiatives such as the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership and Worker Centered Learning initiatives that are now national models for training and job creation. He knew the labor movement must continuously evolve in order to stay relevant in today's fast-changing workforce environment. Further, Phil's vision for the labor movement extends beyond current union members and he continually took on projects that not only expanded the sphere of solidarity but improved the lives of all working families. He knows that a key to long-term prosperity and a viable middle-class is a dynamic public and manufacturing sector which is why Phil sought to bridge gaps between labor and the community by advancing economic development projects that benefited both union workers, as well as, the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Phil Neuenfeldt my friend, he is a veteran and a father with deep roots in this community. I am pleased to recognize his strong fidelity to both the labor movement and its mission. I have known Phil for over two decades beginning while he served as Legislative Director and was always a welcomed visitor to my State Senate office. He willingly shared with me and my staff, both then and now, his knowledge and valuable insights about labor and many other issues.

The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his service because he has fought for the AFL-CIO mission: to raise wages, improve workplace safety, protect worker freedom to collectively bargain and for strong contracts that build strong communities to mobilize union members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice and strive daily to vanquish oppression and make our communities better for all people—regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Mr. Phil Neuenfeldt.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
SERGIO MARCHIONNE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished life of Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne. I extend my sincerest sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of this gifted executive and business leader. My heart goes out to his children, Alessio and Tyler, as well as his partner Manuela Battezzato. Sergio and I had many interactions and conversations over the years and he is someone for whom I had the utmost respect.

Thanks to his indefatigable attitude and remarkable dedication, he shepherded the company through very turbulent times. After 2004, he worked closely and gained the trust of the Administration leading to the auto rescue preserving a long tradition and legacy of automobiles in Toledo, and across the region.

It will come as no surprise to the generations of workers in Toledo that Jeep continues to be named the 'most patriotic' brand in America. Thanks to the leadership of Sergio Marchionne, today, Toledo's Fiat Chrysler Automobile's Assembly Complex is one of the region's largest and most modern manufacturing plants.

Since 1941 when Willys-Overland first contracted with the United States Military to design the Willys MB, what would become the iconic Jeep Wrangler, Toledoans' life blood continues to run through every Jeep Wrangler in the world. And nearly 80 years later, our region's heritage and connection to Jeep grows stronger each day, being a part of and touching the lives of thousands of families.

Mr. Marchionne uniquely understood the power of the Jeep brand as a sign of America's can-do and industrious culture, tripling annual sales of the brand to 1.9 million automobiles in seven years. As the proud home of the Jeep Liberty, the Toledo community expresses its deepest gratitude to him for his productive life, sparkling imagination and respectful manner to both management and workers. Indeed, he understood in order to create a truly high-quality, global brand, workers need be given first-order priority.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marchionne surely left his mark on our community and throughout our auto-producing American Heartland. I am proud to join thousands of workers and others across the region in saluting his life and paying tribute to his legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM
CARSON "BILL" PROUT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. William Carson "Bill" Prout on the occasion of his retirement from Green Top Sporting Goods, an iconic small business in the heart of Virginia's First District. Bill has dedicated twenty-two years to Green Top, reflecting his lifelong commitment to service and excellence in our community.

Prior to joining Green Top, Bill served our country as a Sergeant in the United States Army. During his tours of duty, Bill served in Abera, Ethiopia, and Udorn, Thailand before volunteering for service in Vietnam where he served with the Army Security Agency. After his time in the Army, Bill worked at Cherry, Bekaert & Holland for twenty-five years, demonstrating his dedication and determination as a leader. Once at Green Top Sporting Goods, Bill rose through the ranks to become President and CEO, leading through change and example. He oversaw the company's move to their current 67,000 square foot location and their expansion from around 50 employees to over 120. Under Bill's guidance, Green Top has solidified itself as a shining example of small business excellence.

Bill has been married to his wife, Patty, for forty-seven years and has two children, Billy and Corey, and four grandchildren, Andrew, Mattie, Sloan, and Teddy. In his well-deserved retirement, Bill is looking forward to spending time with his family and visiting Virginia Beach, as well as staying active with the

Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Richmond where he has attended for twenty-six years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the lifetime of accomplishments of Mr. William Carson "Bill" Prout, a true servant, leader, and outstanding member of our community. May God bless Bill and his family as they enter this new phase of life, and on behalf of America's First District, I say thank you.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF FRED
MCKEE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delta County Sheriff Fred McKee of Gunnison, Colorado for his steadfast service to his community as he prepares for retirement. For Sheriff McKee, service to his country started early. He spent three years in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. Shortly after his military service ended, his 40-year career as a law enforcement officer in Colorado began.

He started as a dispatcher and detention officer with the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office and in 1991, he was appointed Under-sheriff of Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office. As a result of his commitment to the community, Sheriff McKee was awarded the San Luis Peace Officer of the year award.

Early in 2000, the spread of methamphetamine reached epidemic levels in the Seventh Judicial District, where Sheriff McKee worked. He was instrumental in the implementation and ultimate success of the Seventh Judicial Drug Task Force that fought the use and distribution of methamphetamine. Sheriff McKee worked tirelessly for the Seventh Judicial Drug Task Force, and he also saw the importance of helping those who were addicted receive treatment.

With the assistance of Colorado Attorney General John Struthers, Sheriff McKee helped to create a comprehensive community response plan to combat and prevent methamphetamine use in 2006, which came to be known as "The Delta Model." He and his officers' hard work on this project led to their national recognition for this innovative program. Today, the program is still running strong thanks to Sheriff McKee's hard work and is now known as "Drug Free Delta County".

Throughout his career, Sheriff McKee made a name for himself in the law enforcement community and with the citizens of Delta County for being fair, honest and involved. Sheriff McKee is not only successful in his professional life, but his personal life as well. Sheriff McKee and his wife Julie, of 46 years, have raised two children, Landon and Shanda, and have been blessed with six grandchildren that keep them busy every day.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Colorado, I would like to thank Sheriff McKee for his commitment to justice and service in Colorado. I wish him luck as he enjoys a well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DIANE AND DEAN
BOVAIRD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Diane and Dean Bovaird of Corning, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Diane and Dean's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Diane and Dean Bovaird on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING LOUISE ROURKE AND
BRIDGET SIMPSON FOR THEIR
SWIM TO FIGHT POLIO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Louise Rourke and Bridget Simpson, who swam across Lake George to raise awareness and funds for polio.

Hailing from Queensbury, New York, Louise Rourke is a 64-year-old polio survivor. Diagnosed at only 6 months old, she underwent multiple corrective surgeries and wore a metal leg brace as a child. Despite these challenges, Louise was committed to living an active and healthy lifestyle, and pursued her love of swimming during her youth at her family's vacation home in Lake George.

Later in her life, Louise met Bridget Simpson, a long-distance swimmer who swam across Lake George solo in 2017. The two immediately became friends, both inspired by the other's story. Bridget began coaching Louise on her swimming techniques and encouraged her to pursue her own long-distance swim. The duo decided on a relay swim across Lake George, alternating swimming five to six miles at a time.

Swimming in support of polio research, Louise and Bridget started in Lake George Village at 6:30 a.m. on June 30, 2018, and completed the 32-mile relay across the lake to Diane's Rock in Ticonderoga in under 24 hours. Through their inspiring story, Louise and Bridget raised \$20,000 to help Rotary International's initiative to eliminate polio. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matched these funds 2-to-1, totaling to a whopping \$60,000 toward the eradication of polio.

I am so proud of Louise's motivation and success in completing her goal, and of Bridget's dedicated mentorship. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to give Louise Rourke and Bridget Simpson my utmost praise and thanks for their dedication to eradicating polio.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL J.
SANTANIELLO, THE 2018 COLUMBUS
DAY ASSOCIATION OF
LACKAWANNA COUNTY MAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Santaniello, who will be recognized as the Man of the Year by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County. Daniel will be celebrated during the Association's 110th annual banquet on Sunday, October 7.

Daniel, the son of Anthony and Trudy Quinnan Santaniello, was born and raised in Lackawanna County. He is a graduate of North Pocono High School and received his degree in accounting from Marywood University. Daniel currently lives in Moscow, Pennsylvania with his wife, Tina, and their four children, Angelo, Anthony, Lauren, and Daniel.

Since December 2010, Daniel has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for Fidelity Bank. Under his leadership, Fidelity Bank's assets have increased by over fifty percent. The bank has been ranked in the "Top 200 Community Banks in the Country" five years in a row by the American Bankers Association and named as the number one community bank brand by a blind market study. Fidelity has additionally been the number one mortgage lender in Lackawanna County for seven consecutive years, according to peer community bank and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data.

Daniel is dedicated to serving his community and lending his time to many local philanthropic and civic organizations across Northeastern Pennsylvania. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Pennsylvania Association of Bankers. He is Chairman Emeritus for the Board of Directors of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, President of the Scranton Cultural Center's Board of Directors, and the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for Friendship House. Daniel further serves as Treasurer for the Prostate Cancer Awareness Foundation, the St. Joseph's Center Foundation Board, and the Lackawanna Workforce Investment Board. He also volunteers his time with the Women's Resource Center, Marywood University, and his local church, St. Eulalia Parish.

It is an honor to recognize Daniel as he is celebrated as the Man of the Year by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County. I wish him all the best and thank him for his service to the community of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO ORVILLE "DEAN"
MCWHORTER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Orville "Dean" McWhorter, who passed away in his home in Norco, California, on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

Dean, a devoted family man, served his nation in the Vietnam War. He will be deeply missed.

Dean graduated from La Serna High School in Whittier, California, in 1969. Not long after graduating high school, Dean joined the Army and was a member of the 101st Airborne Division during the war in Vietnam. After he returned home from Vietnam, Dean began working as an electrical designer at Fluor Corporation and other engineering firms. After 37 years, Dean ultimately finished his career with MARMAC Engineering. After retiring at age 62, Dean and his wife Robin spent time looking for the perfect house and ultimately settled in Norco to be near his children and grandchildren, who meant the world to him.

Dean enjoyed the great outdoors, fishing, guns, hunting, horseback riding, ping-pong, playing pool and camping. He was a devoted Christian, a patriot, and a big sports enthusiast. He loved animals, music, classic cars and motorcycles, a good joke, a great meal, and holiday family get-togethers. Dean leaves behind his loving wife Robin; his daughters Jenny and Brandi; their husbands and children; Dean's oldest brother Lee; Lee's wife Janet; Lee's two daughters Leanne and Kristi; their spouses and children; and Dean's loving mother Delona Louise.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the McWhorter family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Dean. Although Dean may be gone, the many contributions he made to his country, community and family will have a lasting impact.

TRIBUTE TO MARGE AND STEVE
PIERCE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Marge and Steve Pierce of Oakland, Iowa, on their induction into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years. Marge and Steve were nominated by the East Pottawattamie County Extension office.

Marge and Steve have been dedicated volunteers for the Pottawattamie County Fair and the East Pottawattamie County 4-H program for over 25 years. They are honorary members of the East Pottawattamie 4-H and have not missed more than one county fair in 40 years. Marge and Steve are the second family generation to be inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. Their commitment to 4-H in Pottawattamie County has helped set the standard of excellence in promoting this organization for the youth of this community.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Marge and Steve Pierce for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of our youth. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Marge and Steve for their many accomplishments in the 4-H community. I wish them continued success and the very best in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE WORK OF ST.
JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Shawnee, Kansas. This year will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph's, and I share in celebrating this momentous milestone. St. Joseph's boasts one of largest Parishes in the Archdiocese of Kansas City and supports both a grade school and an early education center.

The small frontier town of Shawnee was founded in 1857, and one year later St. Joseph's Catholic Church opened its doors to minister to the growing and diverse community. Today, 150 years later, St. Joseph's continues to play an important role in the health and spiritual lives of people in Johnson County. This is a parish dedicated to the education of our youth and the well-being of our community, and I can only imagine the accomplishments the church will amass in the next 150 years. I want to acknowledge the dedication of the congregation and ministry to spiritual growth, and wish them continued success as they share the Good News and meet the ever-changing needs of the congregation and surrounding neighborhoods.

RECOGNIZING KATHERINE L. CRUZ
ON HER WORK AT THE ROCK IS-
LAND ARSENAL

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherine L. Cruz on her retirement from the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center in Rock Island, Illinois.

Ms. Cruz has spent over 34 years in federal civilian service at the Rock Island Arsenal, which plays such an important role in providing our soldiers with the resources they need at war and at peace. In her role as a Product Quality Manager for Small Arms, Ms. Cruz was committed to ensuring our troops were well equipped by manufacturing a variety of products. Throughout her time at the Arsenal, Ms. Cruz gained the reverence of her colleagues due to her attention to detail, deep knowledge of her work and friendly spirit. I would like to recognize her years of service and thank her for her commitment to the Rock Island Arsenal and our troops. I wish her well as she begins to enjoy a well-deserved retirement and exits a role she dutifully performed.

It is because of dedicated and hardworking people such as Ms. Cruz that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Ms. Cruz for an outstanding career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 393 on September 7, 2018, due to recent surgery. Had I been present, I would have vote no on roll call vote No. 393.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ARTIE
RANSONE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of community leader Mr. Artie M. Ransone of Lively, Virginia. Mr. Ransone has worked tirelessly in our area as an avid volunteer, a small business owner, a model of generosity, and a proud supporter of a grateful community.

In service to Lancaster County, Artie has worked as Secretary of the County Electoral Board, has served as a member on the County Economic Development Committee, has spent ten years as a member of the Lancaster Jaycees, and has spent nineteen years as a volunteer firefighter. Additionally, he has been a long-time member of the Loyal Order of Moose, Lancaster County Lodge No. 2527, where he has served four terms as Governor, and five years as Administrator. Not only has he been an active leader in his local lodge, Artie has also served as District 3 President, President of the Virginia Moose Association, and has been appointed as the Deputy Supreme Governor of Moose International.

Artie characterizes the principles of the Loyal Order of Moose: caring for others, building communities, and celebrating life. For his distinguished service to the community, Artie has been awarded the Administrator's Leadership Award of Excellence, the Governor's Award of Excellence, and multiple Shining Star and Premier Lodge Awards. On September 22, 2018, Artie will be honored once again as he is recognized as a Pilgrim of the Order, one of the highest honors of the Order. He will join an elite group of only 170 Pilgrims out of over 30,000 members in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking and honoring once again Mr. Artie M. Ransone for his building, celebrating, and caring for our community, and for his immeasurable service to Lancaster County.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY AND KEN
MILFORD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Betty and Ken Milford of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anni-

versary. They were married on August 2, 1958 in Shields, Kansas.

Betty and Ken's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE 85TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF MARTIN'S TAVERN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Martin's Tavern located on Wisconsin Avenue and N Street, NW in Washington, D.C.

In the late 1890s, William S. Martin traveled from Galway, Ireland to America. Forty years later in 1933, William S. Martin and his son, William G. Martin, opened Martin's Tavern on the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and N Street NW in Georgetown. Since then, the warm atmosphere of Martin's Tavern has welcomed neighbors and world travelers looking for great food, service and years of history within its walls. In the late 19th century through the early 20th Century, Georgetown remained a blue collar laborers' port, transporting goods in and out of the Washington region. The Martin family was at the heart of the community, familiar with the many that resided, labored and traveled in Georgetown, setting the tone and spirit of their tavern.

This Georgetown landmark has hosted countless political icons—most notably has been every president from Harry Truman (Booth Six) to George W. Bush (Table 12). Over the last eighty-five years, some of the most significant conversations and events would unfold over the tavern's Irish-American fare.

In the 1930s, Benjamin Cohen and Thomas Corcoran, of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration, met in an extension of the tavern's main room called, "The Dugout." Roosevelt's brain trust would hammer out countless New Deal legislation including: the Tennessee Valley Authority, Securities Exchange Act, the Federal Housing Administration, Securities Exchange Commission, the Public Utilities Holding Company Act, Rural Electrification Act, and the Fair Employment Act among other New Deal legislation.

During World War II, Martin's Tavern witnessed the creation of many plans to gain intelligence and eventually assist the allies in winning the war. The Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the modern Central Intelligence Agency, held planning meetings and agent briefings in The Dugout.

While they were dating, Martin's Tavern was a favorite spot of then Senator John F. Kennedy and Miss Jacqueline Lee Bouvier. On Wednesday, June 24, 1953, Jackie returned from covering the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II for the Washington Times Herald. That

night he popped the question to her in Booth Three and she accepted.

One evening in 1954 in Booth Two, five Supreme Court Justices deliberated on the landmark case, *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. Shortly thereafter on May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren read the unanimous decision of the Court. The Supreme Court Justices who ruled on *Brown vs. the Board of Education* were: Chief Justice Earl Warren, Hugo Black, Stanley Forman Reed, Felix Frankfurter, William O. Douglas, Robert H. Jackson, Harold Hitz Burton, Tom C. Clark, and Sherman Minton.

These are just a few of the many moments Martin's Tavern has witnessed in our nation's history. While the regular patrons have changed, many Members of Congress from the House and Senate continue to visit, and great food and service remain a staple. Today, my friend and fourth generation owner, Billy Martin, Jr., continues the tradition of Washington's oldest family owned restaurant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Martin's Tavern, on the occasion of its 85th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
MICHAEL GEORGE LOWRY, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Michael George Lowry, Jr., age 34, who passed away on September 5th.

Michael George Lowry, Jr. was born on December 28, 1983 in Ohio, Youngstown to Michael and Annie Miller Lowry. He was a lifelong resident of the Mahoning Valley and a huge Notre Dame and Pittsburgh Steelers fan. After attending both Ursuline and Liberty High Schools, he became a Chemical Dependence Counselor Assistant with Breaking Point and New Day. He was known as an excellent counselor who continually showed love and compassion for those in his care.

Outside of work, Michael had a passion for the outdoors, and he enjoyed building fires in his backyard fire pit. Michael was also dedicated to improving his community. He was an advocate for the homeless, and a volunteer at local animal shelters.

His memory will be cherished by his parents, his children; Lillian Lowry, Ava Lowry and her mother, Angela Hernandez, and Olivia and Jackson Lowry and their mother, Rachel Mangine; sister Laura (Alex Chick) Lowry; brother James (Molly) Lowry; nephews James Lowry and Breen Dahman; girlfriend Bethany Hawout; and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins. Michael was preceded in death by his grandparents, Dutch, Sally, and Nancy Miller and Chuck and Jean Lowry.

I have known the Lowry family for many years, and I know Michael is dearly missed. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS
OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 12, 2018 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 12th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theatre, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Howard J Adolph, William J Alpers, Thomas A Altosino, John R. Anderson, James A. Bansley, Joyce Luke Barber, Robert L. Borgstrom, Theodore R Borowski, Joseph Bosnyak, David D. Brockman, John M. Brown, Anthony T Buckun, Michael Cadena, Charles Callahan, Gus Candilas, James F. Carsten, Albert Cato, Berry Conner, Roy Dahl, Philip Davis, Richard DeSandre, John M. Fausel, Joseph R Forbes, Erwin B Forde, Virgil D. Foster, Edward A Friz, Jon T Fuglestad, Martin V. Garcia, William P Gardaphe, Joseph J. Gauthier, Dominick Geraci, Dominic Giannini, Lawrence Goudzwaard, Homer Grady Jr., Kenneth Grill, Ralph R Gross, Kenneth E. Grudis, William R. Gurolnick.

Paul W. Jacobs, Harold Erwin Jerde, Ronald D Johnson, Dave Jones, Edwin Kaye, Bruce Killings, Robert A. Kratochvil, Thomas B Larson, William E Leber, James V Leonard, Peter Leuzzi, Donald E Lewandowski, George D. Logothetis, Fred Lott, Edward J. Lukas, Lloyd H. Lundberg, Al J. Mack, John Mahoney, Raymond E Mahoney, Frank Mareska, Donald R Mathews, James D. Mays, Warren McClure, Matthew T McIntyre, Michael L. Meier, Milan Menich, Lawrence J Metz, Jacob Molter, James J Mortell, Gerald L. Netherton, William J Ohlhaber, Raymond W. Olson.

Daniel A Pacella, Mercus L. Payne, Robert Porter, Donald Pracht, Howard Pratt, George I. Price, Raymond Przybylski, Raymond Rafter, William Rehbock, Charles W. Richardson, Robert Riegel, Allen Roderick, Freddie Rouse, Donald A Sandstedt, Nicholas L. Sassone, James F Scheffler, Robert L Schmidt, David I Schuman, James Shields, Paul J Sifter, Richard Smigel, Phillip F Smith, Stanley L. Stock, Charles E. Swickard, Gregory Tomaino, Robert A. Traglia, Pasquale A.

Valentino, William M. VanDuyn, Vincent Vitucci, Clarence Vos, Richard J Welch, Eugene Yale.

TRIBUTE TO MARYLIN AND KENNY
WEEDA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marilyn and Kenny Weeda of Tingley, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 10, 2018.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING MOOERS FREE
LIBRARY ON ITS 101ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mooers Free Library on its 101st Anniversary.

Since it first opened its doors to the public in 1917, the Mooers Free Library has worked to provide the community with free access to the world of information and ideas, and to enhance community life. The Mooers Free Library is part of the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System, which allows residents to request books from any library in the tri-county area, as well as links the library to a worldwide network of books.

In order to meet the public's advancing intellectual and cultural needs, just last year the Mooers Free Library opened a brand new building with an updated book collection, new computers, and an afterschool program for children. As Mooers Free Library continues to prosper, the community grows along side it.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate Mooers Free Library on its 101st Anniversary and thank the dedicated people who work there for their tireless commitment to serving the community.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH BARTON
GREER, JR.

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life of Joseph Barton "Bartee" Greer,

Jr., who passed away on July 13, 2018 after a life very well lived.

A lifelong Alabamian, Mr. Greer was born on October 14, 1925 and attended Murphy High School in Mobile. He went on to attend the University of Alabama, where he played football for the Crimson Tide.

During World War II, Mr. Greer served in the United States Navy. He was stationed in Fort Worth, Texas where he worked as a medic for war victims as they returned home from combat.

Following his naval service, he started working with the family business, Autry Greer & Sons, where he worked for over sixty years. The family grocery business grew substantially during his time with the business and now operates in multiple states across the Gulf Coast region. After a very proud and successful business career, he retired as Chairman of the Board.

When not working, he enjoyed golf, football, and flying. In fact, Mr. Greer constructed his own airplane in his garage, which he flew around the Mobile area. The plane is now on display at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Greer was a steadfast supporter of the local community and a champion of those less fortunate. He served on numerous community and philanthropic boards, including his membership in the Rotary Club. He was the definition of a "family man," and he took great pride in the many successes of his family and friends.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to share my deepest condolences with Mr. Greer's family and friends. I hope they take great comfort in knowing that his impact will continue to be felt in Mobile and throughout the region for years to come.

CONGRATULATING HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Henry Street Settlement, as it celebrates its 125th year anniversary on September 13, 2018.

Henry Street Settlement is a non-profit organization located in Manhattan's Lower East Side. In 1893, Henry Street Settlement was founded by Lillian Wald, one of the most influential social reformers of the 20th century. At Henry Street, Wald and her colleagues developed a pioneering model for social reform, spearheading comprehensive social services and educational instruction for New Yorkers living in poverty.

Today, Henry Street Settlement provides a variety of services including education, employment, health and wellness, and housing, to over 60,000 New Yorkers each year. A bedrock of the community's history, Henry Street has helped welcome immigrants, integrate neighborhoods and alleviate poverty.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Henry Street Settlement and its leadership on this special 125th year anniversary. These dedicated individuals exemplify outstanding leadership through their public service to the community. I wish Henry Street continued success in many more years of service.

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND DAVID LUCKINBILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary and David Luckinbill of Dexter, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 10, 1968.

Mary and David's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary and David on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING MARY JANE KUHN

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mary Jane Kuhn, of Milliken. My wife and I had the pleasure of knowing Mary Jane through her incredible work with the Genesis Project of Northern Colorado, where she showed the love of God to single mothers and their children in their times of greatest need.

Mary Jane was born in Missouri, but at a young age her family moved to the 70 Ranch near Kersey. In 1964, she graduated from Platte Valley High School, and shortly afterwards she married her husband Richard. Just 4 years ago the two celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Richard and Mary Jane briefly lived in Germany while Richard served in the Air Force, before they moved to Washington, D.C. and then settled again in the Northern Colorado area.

Mary Jane's was a life devoted to people, to her large family, including daughters Christine and Michelle, to the innocent children she fought for with Right to Life, and to the children she assisted throughout a career spent working in special education.

Her outsized presence in this community and in the Resurrection Fellowship church community will be deeply missed. But her legacy, in the many people whose lives she impacted, will live on. Northern Colorado is a better place because of Mary Jane Kuhn.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill I introduced today along with Sen-

ator DUCKWORTH from Illinois, the School Bus Safety Act.

No more precious cargo is there than school-aged children entrusted by their parents to go and earn an education and pave the way to a better life. The common-sense measures called for in this legislation will save young lives and it's the right thing to do.

In November 2016, there were two high-profile school bus accidents in Chattanooga, Tennessee and another in Baltimore, Maryland that left 6 school-aged children robbed of their futures.

According to a subsequent National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) crash investigation report, seat belts and other safety measures could have prevented the death of those children and no doubt countless others involved in school bus accidents across the United States.

That is why I am glad that others have joined in the chorus to improve school bus safety including my colleagues, Representatives JOSH GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey and CHARLIE CRIST of Florida who have introduced similar legislation, along with Representatives ELIJAH CUMMINGS from Maryland and JOHN DUNCAN from my state of Tennessee who joined me earlier this year to call for a hearing on this very matter.

Despite the recommendations of the NTSB, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration refuses to initiate the process to enshrine these life-saving measures into federal regulation.

As a result of this inaction, Senator DUCKWORTH and I have put forth the School Bus Safety Act, a comprehensive bill to not only make children safer in the event of a crash, but to promote technologies to prevent crashes in the first place.

Buses, like so many passenger vehicles on the road today, should be equipped with automatic electronic braking systems and electronic stability control. It is just common-sense that our children are the safest they can be on their way to and from school.

The School Bus Safety Act has been endorsed by the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety as well as the National Safety Council.

I urge this body to swiftly pass this legislation so that no other young souls fall victim to our failure to act and make school buses safer.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the Defenders of the Alamo.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO—MARCH 6, 1836

ABAMILLO, JUAN—TEXAS—UNKNOWN; ALLEN, ROBERT—VIRGINIA—UNKNOWN; ANDROSS, MILES—DEFORREST—VERMONT—27; AUTRY, MICAJAH—NORTH CAROLINA—43; BADILLO, JUAN ANTONIO—TEXAS—UNKNOWN; BAILEY, PETER JAMES III—KENTUCKY—24; BAKER, ISAAC G.—ARKANSAS—32; BAKER, WILLIAM CHARLES M.—MISSOURI—UNKNOWN; BALLENTINE, JOHN J.—PENNSYLVANIA—UNKNOWN; BALLENTINE,

RICHARD W.—SCOTLAND—22; BAUGH, JOHN J.—VIRGINIA—33; BAYLISS, JOSEPH—TENNESSEE—28; BLAIR, JOHN—TENNESSEE—33; BLAIR, SAMUEL—TENNESSEE—29; BLAZEBY, WILLIAM—ENGLAND—41; BONHAM, JAMES BUTER—SOUTH CAROLINA—29; BOURNE, DANIEL—ENGLAND—26; BOWIE, JAMES—KENTUCKY—40; BOWMAN, JESSE—TENNESSEE—51; BROWN, GEORGE—ENGLAND—35.

BROWN, JAMES MURRY—PENNSYLVANIA—36; BROWN, ROBERT—UNKNOWN—18; BUCHANAN, JAMES—UNKNOWN—23; BURNS, SAMUEL E.—IRELAND—26; BUTLER, GEORGE D.—MISSOURI—23; CAIN, JOHN—PENNSYLVANIA—34; CAMPBELL, ROBERT—TENNESSEE—26; CAREY, WILLIAM RIDGEWAY—VIRGINIA—30; CLARK, CHARLES HENRY—MISSOURI—UNKNOWN; CLARK, M.B.—MISSISSIPPI—UNKNOWN; CLOUD, DANIEL WILLIAM—KENTUCKY—22; COCHRAN, ROBERT E.—NEW HAMPSHIRE—26; COTTLE, GEORGE WASHINGTON—UNKNOWN—25; COURTMAN, HENRY—GERMANY—28; CRAWFORD, LEMUEL—SOUTH CAROLINA—22; CROCKETT, DAVID—TENNESSEE—49; CROSSMAN, ROBERT—PENNSYLVANIA—26; CUMMINGS, DAVID P.—PENNSYLVANIA—27; DARST, JACOB C.—KENTUCKY—43; DAVIS, JOHN—KENTUCKY—25.

DAY, FREEMAN H.K.—UNKNOWN—30; DAY, JERRY C.—MISSOURI—18; DAYMON, SQUIRE—TENNESSEE—28; DEARDUFF, WILLIAM—TENNESSEE—UNKNOWN; DENNISON, STEPHEN—GREAT BRITAIN—24; DESPALLIER, CHARLES—LOUISIANA—21; DEWALL, LEWIS—NEW YORK—24; DICKINSON, ALMERON—PENNSYLVANIA—36; DILLARD, JOHN HENRY—TENNESSEE—31; DIMPKINS, JAMES R.—ENGLAND—UNKNOWN; DUVALT, ANDREW—IRELAND—32; ESPALIER, CARLOS—TEXAS—17; ESPARZA, JOSE MARIA—TEXAS—34; EVANS, ROBERT—IRELAND—36; EVANS, SAMUEL B.—NEW YORK—24; EWING, JAMES L.—TENNESSEE—24; FAUNTLEROY, WILLIAM H.—KENTUCKY—22; FISHBAUGH, WILLIAM—GONZALES—UNKNOWN; FLANDERS, JOHN—MASSACHUSETTS—36; FLOYD DOLPHIN WARD—NORTH CAROLINA—32.

FORSYTH, JOHN HUBBARD—NEW YORK—39; FUENTES, ANTONIO—TEXAS—23; FUQUA, GALBA—ALABAMA—17; GARNETT, WILLIAM—UNKNOWN—24; GARRAND, JAMES W.—LOUISIANA—23; GARRETT, JAMES GIRARD—TENNESSEE—30; GARVIN, JOHN E.—GONZALES—27; GASTON, JOHN E.—GONZALES—17; GEORGE, JAMES—GONZALES—34; GOODRICH, JOHN C.—VIRGINIA—27; GRIMES, ALBERT CALVIN—GEORGIA—19; GWYNNE, JAMES C.—ENGLAND—32; HANNUM, JAMES—PENNSYLVANIA—21; HARRIS, JOHN—KENTUCKY—23; HARRISON, ANDREW JACKSON—TENNESSEE—27; HARRISON, WILLIAM B.—OHIO—25; HASKELL, CHARLES M.—UNKNOWN—23; HAWKINS, JOSEPH M.—IRELAND—37; HAYS, JOHN M.—TENNESSEE—22; HERNDON, PATRICK HENRY—VIRGINIA—34.

HERSEE, WILLIAM DANIEL—ENGLAND—31; HOLLAND, TAPLEY—OHIO—26; HOLLOWAY, SAMUEL—PENNSYLVANIA—28; HOWELL, WILLIAM D.—MASSACHUSETTS—39; JACKSON, THOMAS—IRELAND—UNKNOWN; JACKSON, WILLIAM DANIEL—IRELAND—29; JAMESON, GREEN B.—UNKNOWN—27; JENNINGS, GORDON C.—CONNECTICUT—56; JIMENEZ, DAMACIO—TEXAS—UNKNOWN; JOHN—UNKNOWN—UNKNOWN; JOHNSON, LEWIS—VIRGINIA—23; JOHNSON, WILLIAM—PENNSYLVANIA—UNKNOWN;

JONES, JOHN—NEW YORK—26; KELLOGG, JOHN BENJAMIN—KENTUCKY—19; KENNY, JAMES—VIRGINIA—22; KENT, ANDREW—KENTUCKY—38; KERR, JOSEPH—LOUISIANA—22; KIMBELL, GEORGE C.—NEW YORK—33; KING, WILLIAM PHILIP—MISSISSIPPI—16; LEWIS, WILLIAM IRVINE—VIRGINIA—30.

LIGHTFOOT, JOHN WILLIAM—KENTUCKY—31; LINDLEY, JONATHAN—ILLINOIS—22; LINN, WILLIAM—MASSACHUSETTS—UNKNOWN; LOSOYA, JOSE TORIBIO—TEXAS—28; MAIN, GEORGE WASHINGTON—VIRGINIA—29; MALONE, WILLIAM T.—UNKNOWN—19; MARSHALL, WILLIAM—TENNESSEE—28; MARTIN, ALBERT—RHODE ISLAND—28; MCCAFFERTY, EDWARD—UNKNOWN—UNKNOWN; MCCOY, JESSE—TENNESSEE—22; MCDOWELL, WILLIAM—PENNSYLVANIA—42; MCGEE, JAMES—IRELAND—UNKNOWN; MCGREGOR, JOHN—SCOTLAND—UNKNOWN; MCKINNEY, ROBERT—TENNESSEE—27; MELTON, ELIEL—GEORGIA—38; MILLER, THOMAS REDD—VIRGINIA—32; MILLS, WILLIAM—TENNESSEE—21; MILLSAPS, ISAAC—TENNESSEE—41; MITCHASSON, EDWARD F.—VIRGINIA—30.

MITCHELL, EDWIN T.—UNKNOWN—30; MITCHELL, NAPOLEON B.—TENNESSEE—32; MOORE, ROBERT B.—VIRGINIA—55; MOORE, WILLIS A.—NORTH CAROLINA—28; MUSSELMAN, ROBERT—OHIO—31; NAVA, ANDRES—TEXAS—26; NEGGAN, GEORGE—SOUTH CAROLINA—28; NELSON, ANDREW M.—TENNESSEE—27; NELSON, EDWARD—SOUTH CAROLINA—20; NELSON, GEORGE—SOUTH CAROLINA—31; NORTHCROSS, JAMES—VIRGINIA—32; NOWLAN, JAMES—GREAT BRITAIN—27; PAGAN, GEORGE—MISSISSIPPI—26; PARKER, CHRISTOPHER ADAMS—MISSISSIPPI—22; PARKS, WILLIAM—NORTH CAROLINA—31; PERRY, RICHARDSON—MISSISSIPPI—19; POLLARD, AMOS—MASSACHUSETTS—33; REYNOLDS, JOHN PURDY—PENNSYLVANIA—30; ROBERTS, THOMAS H.—UNKNOWN—UNKNOWN; ROBERTSON, JAMES WATERS—TENNESSEE—24; ROBINSON, ISAAC—SCOTLAND—28.

ROSE, JAMES M.—OHIO—31; RUSK, JACKSON J.—IRELAND—UNKNOWN; RUTHERFORD, JOSEPH—KENTUCKY—38; RYAN, ISAAC—LOUISIANA—31; SCURLOCK, MIAL—NORTH CAROLINA—27; SEWELL, MARCUS L.—TENNESSEE—26; SHIED, MANSON—GEORGIA—25; SIMMONS, CLEVELAND KINLOCH—SOUTH CAROLINA—21; SMITH, ANDREW H.—TENNESSEE—21; SMITH, CHARLES S.—MARYLAND—30; SMITH, JOSHUA G.—NORTH CAROLINA—29; SMITH, WILLIAM H.—TEXAS—25; STARR, RICHARD—ENGLAND—25; STEWART, JAMES E.—ENGLAND—28; STOCKTON, RICHARD LUCIUS—NEW JERSEY—19; SUMMERLIN, A. SPAIN—TENNESSEE—19; SUMMERS, WILLIAM E.—SOUTH CAROLINA—24; SUTHERLAND, WILLIAM DEPRIEST—UNKNOWN—18; TAYLOR, EDWARD—TENNESSEE—24; TAYLOR, GEORGE—TENNESSEE—20.

TAYLOR, JAMES—TENNESSEE—22; TAYLOR, WILLIAM—TENNESSEE—37; THOMAS, B. ARCHER M.—KENTUCKY—18; THOMAS, HENRY—GERMANY—25; THOMPSON, JESSE G.—ARKANSAS—38; THOMSON, JOHN W.—VIRGINIA—29; THURSTON, JOHN M.—PENNSYLVANIA—24; TRAMMEL, BURKE—IRELAND—26; TRAVIS, WILLIAM BARRET—SOUTH CAROLINA—26; TUMLINSON, GEORGE W.—MISSOURI—22; TYLEE, JAMES—NEW YORK—41; WALKER, ASA—TENNESSEE—23; WALKER, JACOB—TENNESSEE—37; WARD, WILLIAM B.—IRELAND—30; WARNELL, HENRY—ARKANSAS—24; WASHINGTON, JOSEPH G.—KENTUCKY—28; WATERS,

THOMAS—ENGLAND—24; WELLS, WILLIAM—GEORGIA—38; WHITE, ISAAC—UNKNOWN—UNKNOWN; WHITE, ROBERT—GONZALES—30.

WILLIAMSON, HIRAM JAMES—PENNSYLVANIA—26; WILLS, WILLIAM—TEXAS—UNKNOWN; WILSON, DAVID L.—SCOTLAND—29; WILSON, JOHN—PENNSYLVANIA—32; WOLF, ANTHONY—UNKNOWN—54; WRIGHT, CLAIBORNE—NORTH CAROLINA—26; ZANCO, CHARLES—DENMARK—28.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TUSCARAWAS

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Kent State University's Tuscarawas campus for serving the Tuscarawas community as an institution of higher learning for the past 50 years.

Since 1962, Kent State University at Tuscarawas has enabled students to expand their career opportunities by providing local access to higher education. With the mission "to transform lives and communities through the power of discovery and creative expression in an inclusive environment," Kent State University at Tuscarawas thrives in developing partnerships with students and Tuscarawas County to cultivate economic development and opportunities.

Starting as a night program at New Philadelphia High School, the opening of Founders Hall in 1968 significantly increased availability of higher education to the surrounding area. Now serving over 2,000 students per year, Kent State Tuscarawas is the only locally owned regional campus in the state, and is home to the only Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology in the Kent State University System. This university further serves the community through a partnership between the campus and the Tuscarawas County Historical Society dating back to 1992, and the campus has housed the Tuscarawas Kent Archive, an extensive collection of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and national history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 7th Congressional District, I am proud to join in celebration of Kent State University at Tuscarawas' 50th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MAYME COHRON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Mayme Cohron on the occasion of her 100th birthday on August 28, 2018.

Mayme was born in Bolivar, Missouri to parents, Joe and Josie Skarda and grew up on a farm in Ringgold County, Iowa. She and her siblings attended country school and Mayme became a school teacher in Union County. She later became vice president of a bank

and worked in the insurance industry. While she had considerable success as a businesswoman, she considers raising her children and making it on her own after the death of her husband her greatest accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mayme Cohron in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mayme on reaching this incredible milestone and in wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING MASARYK
TOWERS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Masaryk Towers on the special occasion of its 50th and 51st Anniversary Rededication ceremony.

This complex is more than brick and mortar. Built at the height of the Civil Rights movement, and three decades after the New Deal and the 1934 Federal Housing Act, the Masaryk Towers development is a symbol of vision, innovation and hope in the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

We all know and embrace the rich history of the Lower East Side from the arrival and settlement of hard working immigrants seeking freedom and the American Dream to the history of poor tenants living in crowded subpar tenements, with unsanitary and unsafe housing conditions.

From the 1900's to the present, government initiatives have sought to improve the quality of life for its citizens. In the 1930's, after the stock market crash, our nation had more than 12 million unemployed people, many of whom faced homelessness. This crisis pushed New Yorkers, especially immigrants, into decades of despair. After World War II, New York City saw a peak in population, but also a massive flight by the middle-income families, industries and businesses to the suburbs, leaving lower-income working families behind.

Recognizing a need to help address the housing crisis facing working families, New York State Representatives Senator MacNeil Mitchell and Assemblyman Alfred Lama created the Mitchell-Lama program in 1955. In 1967, Masaryk Towers was completed under the program and named after Tomas Masaryk, the first President of Czechoslovakia. Today, Masaryk Towers consists of more than 1,100 apartment units and is home to thousands of residents in Manhattan's Lower East Side community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Masaryk Towers and its leadership: President Bernice McCallum, Board Officers Laura Pagan and Ted Reich and the entire Board on this special anniversary, and for their dedication and commitment to preserving Masaryk Towers for future generations.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS
OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on August 8, 2018 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on August 8th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Arthur Richard Adkins, Jesse G. Alvarez, Joseph L. Amendola, James Babakitis, Nicholas Bacoulis, Edward J. Barys, Walter F. Baxendale, Aldo Biagioni, Arthur J. Billings, James Bounardj, Edwin P. Brummel, Lawrence M. Buescher, William H. Buhle, Rosario Cali, Donald L. Campbell, John A. Caruso, Dwight A. Cooke, Mario J. Cortina, Gordon R. Deal, Owen B. Dehlinger, Harold A. Dickson, Felix F. Donofrio, Fernando M. Dorado, John H. Eichhorn, William C. Elliott, Gerson Bertram Field, Mitchell Filip, Fred F. Fisher, Seymour Fleischman, Ernest G. Frieders, Raymond J. Fron, Robert H. Garcia, Stanley Jack Gartenberg, Gunter H. Gehl, Charles M. George, John A. Georgeson, Phillip C. Goldstick, Miguel Gomez, Robert Good, Eugene J. Goworowski, Donald H. Gustafson, Richard H. Haen, Gunnar F. Hanson, Francis J. Haynes, Jack C. Hockett, John M. Hurley, Henry Jackson, Herbert Jacobsen, Irving Kaplan, Harvey L. Keim, Charles Kirian, Raymond Klemchuk, Leonard R. Koubenec, Donald H. Kraft, Eugene E. Kuffel, Harry Kuhrau, Buddy Walter Larsen, Floyd M. Liberatori, Raymond W. Loris, William J. Marich, Howard D. Maskill, John P. Meehan, Bernard Minarcik, Deane S. Moore, Stephen J. Moyerak, John C. Muno, Carl Olesen, Dale W. Olsen, Carl J. Oman, James A. Parker, Clifford Paulson, Joseph T. Phillips, Victor P. Pienkowski, Harry Rakowski, Enricko Roa, Joseph L. Rodriguez, Eddie Rollins, William Franklin Salkeld, George F. Schade, Fred G. Schreiber, Donald T. Sharko, Otto Soyk, Nick A. Stiso, Herbert W. Stoll, Carl E. Stomp, Stephen L. Strand, Frank Termini, Praxedis Rolando Trevino, Adrian D. Wood, Peter F. Zika.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PVT.
JAMES L. DISSPAIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Pvt. James L. Disspain.

Pvt. Disspain of Lincoln, Alabama, served in World War I. He died on September 13th in France—just two months before Armistice Day.

September 13, 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of his death. On September 11th, the City of Lincoln will proclaim a day in his honor and have a wreath laying ceremony at his gravesite on September 12th.

Family members will present an 'honor quilt' in Pvt. Disspain's memory that honors the 11 members of their family who have served in the military from World War I to Vietnam. The quilt is centered around Pvt. Disspain and his ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of this brave American hero, Pvt. James L. Disspain.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC TIERNAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eric Tiernan. He was recently honored as the 2018 Good Egg Days Citizen of the Year in Stuart, Iowa.

Born and raised in Stuart, Eric is known in the community for his innovative ideas that have made the town prosper. He has served on community boards and committees and most recently contributed to establishing the Fremont Theatre and the Wambold Housing Addition. Eric and his wife Margaret raised four children in Stuart and are proud and active grandparents to three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Eric Tiernan for this award, and for working hard to make Iowa a quality place to live. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Eric and wishing him nothing but continued success.

SUPPORT BALANCE AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my resolution in support of Balance Awareness Week and the related vestibular disorders.

The vestibular system includes the parts of the inner ear and brain that process the sensory information involved with controlling balance and eye movements.

As many as 35 percent of adults aged 40 years or older in the United States—approximately 69 million Americans—have experienced some form of vestibular dysfunction. According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), a further 4 percent (8 million) of American adults report a chronic problem with balance, while an additional 1.1 percent (2.4 million) report a chronic problem with dizziness. Eighty percent of people aged 65 years and older have experienced dizziness, and BPPV, the most common vestibular disorder, is the cause of approximately 50 percent of dizziness in older people. Overall, vertigo from a vestibular problem accounts for one third of all dizziness and vertigo symptoms reported to health care professionals.

The most commonly diagnosed vestibular disorders include benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), labyrinthitis and vestibular neuritis, Ménière's disease, secondary endolymphatic hydrops, and perilymph fistula. Vestibular disorders also include superior canal dehiscence, acoustic neuroma, ototoxicity, enlarged vestibular aqueduct syndrome, and mal de débarquement. Other problems related to vestibular dysfunction include vestibular migraine and complications from autoimmune disorders and allergies.

There is no cure for this disorder. The form of treatment prescribed for vestibular disorders depends upon symptoms, medical history and general health, a physical examination by a qualified doctor, and diagnostic test results. Treatment can include: vestibular rehabilitation therapy, canalith repositioning maneuvers, home-based exercise, dietary adjustments, counseling, medication or surgery.

Because of difficulties posed by accurately diagnosing and reporting vestibular disorders, statistics estimating how common they are, how often they occur, and what social impacts they have range widely. Yet even the lowest estimates reflect the fact that vestibular disorders occur frequently and can affect people of any age.

Vestibular disorders not only profoundly affect adults, but also children. Once thought to be exceptionally rare, pediatric vestibular disorders are receiving increasing attention from clinicians as an overlooked problem. In addition to impairments of motor development and balance, vestibular deficits may cause poor gaze stability that inhibits children from learning to read. Despite new awareness of pediatric vestibular disorders, children are currently not typically screened for them, and as a result frequently fail to receive medical treatment for their symptoms.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in supporting the third week of September as Balance Awareness Week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD
"SKIP" ARMSTRONG

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a good friend of mine, Richard "Skip" Armstrong, for his 51 years in the workforce.

After more than five decades in the workforce, Skip retired on August 31, 2018, from

Maranatha Village in Springfield, Missouri, where he was the Director of Facilities and Capital Projects.

However, Skip's career began long before his time with Maranatha Village. At the age of 16, Skip began working in the hen houses of Lubec, Maine. Once he turned 17, he began working at North Lubec Manufacturing and Canning Company. Skip spent many years working in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for Cardo Automotive Products and as an independent building contractor in the city. He even started his own small business, LTD Parts, in Sparta, Tennessee, which is still in operation today. As the years passed, Skip worked all across the U.S., including Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and then finally, Missouri.

Skip has been much more than a hard-working employee through the years. He is the cherished only son of the late Lewis "Duke" and Florence Armstrong. He has been a loving husband of 43 years to Deborah Armstrong, and a devoted father of three daughters, Janine, Jennifer and Julia, and a father-in-law to two of the best son-in-laws around, Mark and David. His grandchildren, Greyson, Charlotte, Graham and Lincoln simply can't wait to see more of Pappy in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to say thank you to Skip for his years of hard work and commitment to southwest Missouri as well as his friendship. Fifty-one years is a long time and something worth celebrating.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS RUFUS LLOYD KETCHUM

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Rufus Lloyd Ketchum, an Army veteran of the Korean War killed in action at age 38 in the battle of Chosin.

Sergeant Ketchum honorably served in the Italian campaign of World War II and re-enlisted in the United States Army's 7th Infantry Division as a medic. On December 6, 1950, he was reported missing in action after an intense battle.

In 1952, Mrs. Dorothy Ketchum accepted on behalf of her husband the nation's second-highest military award, the Distinguished Service Cross. The citation honored Sergeant First Class R. Lloyd Ketchum's "extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy army." For his leadership and valor, his partial list of awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Through DNA testing, Sergeant Ketchum's remains were accounted for on April 23, 2018. Sergeant First Class Ketchum was laid to rest at the Calvary Cemetery in Superior, Wisconsin on August 14, 2018 with full military honors.

On behalf of the residents of the 7th Congressional District of Wisconsin, I would like to thank the family of Sergeant Ketchum for his service to our grateful nation and his ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War. Welcome home, Sergeant First Class Ketchum.

TRIBUTE HONORING REVEREND
COLUMBUS EWING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest the Reverend Columbus Ewing, Pastor of Community Fellowship Baptist Church; and

Whereas, prior to organizing Community Fellowship, Reverend Ewing was a longtime loyal assistant to Reverend Matthew Thomas who organized the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church where my wife's aunt, Aunt Hattie Harrell was one of the first fourteen members and my dear friend Mrs. Earline Lindsey and Deacon Davis may have been the persons who introduced me to Reverend Ewing; and

Whereas, Reverend Ewing was a Precinct Captain and political worker in the 37th Ward; and

Whereas, Reverend Ewing organized Community Fellowship and I was privileged to attend his first banquet; and

Whereas, Reverend Ewing and Community Fellowship have always opened their doors and been a part of community events, political meetings and everything I have been involved with to benefit the community for all of these many years; and

Whereas, Reverend Ewing loved and nourished all of his family, his wonderful wife Emma, all of his children, grandchildren and other relatives, he pointed out their achievements all of the time. I would not say that he had favorites but he was extremely proud of church and community activist, teacher, principal, Doctor, Reverend, Pastor Shirley Ewing of Community Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church; and

Whereas, both Reverend Ewing and I liked to eat and we shared many a meal together, both at the church and soul food restaurants throughout the city;

Therefore, we extend our condolences to Reverend Dr. Shirley Ewing, the Ewing Family and the Community Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE AND ROGER
FRANCIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Irene and Roger Francis of Creston, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 22, 1968 in Osceola, Iowa.

Irene and Roger's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene and Roger Francis on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF
BARBARA PITTS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 70th birthday of Barbara Pitts.

Barbara was born on October 10, 1948 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She is a two-time graduate of Auburn University. In 1972, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and in 1974, a Master of Science in Education. She is founder and charter member of Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. It was chartered at Auburn University on January 12, 1974.

Barbara is the proud mother of Christopher Pitts and has been blessed with two grandchildren: Zaire and Chad Pitts.

Barbara is a member of Bell Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn where she has served in many roles. She is also founding member of Alabama New South Coalition and currently serves as Vice President of the Board.

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, her friends and family will surprise her with a birthday gathering.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Barbara's life and wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.

CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE
AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chinese American Medical Society as they host their 55th Annual Scientific Symposium and Annual Red Lantern Gala.

As the oldest and one of the largest Chinese American medical societies, CAMS provides meaningful support for Chinese American medical students, educates the Chinese American community on health issues that disproportionately impact Chinese Americans, and is a leader in research on the ever-changing field of medical practices and medical technology.

The Chinese American Medical Society's 55th Annual Scientific Conference and Red Lantern Gala stands as a testament to CAMS's dedication to recognizing talent and hard work from skilled professionals who dedicate their lives to improving the health of others in the Chinese American community.

I would like to specifically congratulate S. Chiu Wong as a recipient of the CAMS Scientific Award, as well as the Chinese American Nurses Association and UnitedHealthcare Asian Initiatives as recipients of the Community Service Awards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Chinese American Medical Society for decades of lifechanging work.

HONORING MARLENE KAYSER ON
THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marlene Kayser of Saint Paul, Minnesota on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Marlene's family will join her many friends to celebrate her extraordinary lifetime of service to others on September 23, 2018. Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed the day as Marlene Kayser Day in the State of Minnesota.

Growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota instilled in Marlene the values of hard work, sensibility and duty to others. A passion for promoting human rights and social justice has taken her across the state and around the world to further this vital work. Numerous organizations and causes including Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Planned Parenthood have benefited greatly from her generosity, leadership and skills as a volunteer and role model.

Over the decades, Marlene, her husband Tom, daughter Carol and sons Tom and David literally opened their arms and their Saint Paul home to the community to generously assist others. There they have served as host family to many international students, connected countless community leaders, and launched initiatives that improve our state and our planet for everyone. The open door of the Kayser home has been a tangible symbol of the hospitality and encouragement that Marlene offers.

Through her tireless work with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Marlene has traveled the world as a grassroots volunteer—at her own expense—to monitor conditions and to train leaders. She's spoken with citizens and professionals about domestic violence in places like Macedonia and Romania, then returned to Minnesota to provide her valuable skills as an effective fundraiser who builds relationships and spreads the word about these important issues.

Generations of social justice advocates have been taught by Marlene's example and mentorship. It has been observed by many that her gracious persistence and dignified determination in promoting women's rights inspires others to push harder and never give up when faced with challenges. Above all, she leads by example. When called to help, you can count on Marlene to provide vision, as well as the tenacity to see a project to completion.

It is a privilege to know Marlene as a friend, confidant and mentor. Her ability to offer wise counsel and inspiration has always been a welcome presence during my elected service. I am grateful for her kindness and grace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the many significant contributions of Marlene Kayser throughout her decades of human rights and social justice activism. As Minnesota prepares to observe "Marlene Kayser Day in Minnesota," let us all celebrate her

great impact in our state and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO PAMM AND JIM
OLSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pamm and Jim Olson, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on July 28, 2018.

Pamm and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Pamm and Jim Olson on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLEDO SISTER CITIES
INTERNATIONAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary evolution of the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) presence in the City of Toledo as an umbrella group for the ten Sister Cities/regions which constitute this membership. Members and friends are gathering this weekend to celebrate its silver anniversary.

As TSCI celebrates its 25th anniversary, our community is also proud to celebrate what is regarded as the very first Sister City agreement when, in 1931, the Association of Two Toledos linking Toledo, Ohio with Toledo, Spain was born. That was years before President Dwight Eisenhower, in 1956, called for "citizen diplomacy" to create sister city relationships with the goal of promoting world peace. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., this organization oversees the establishment of sister city relationships which are mayor to mayor agreements that are initiated by citizens in interested cities across the globe and approved by local governing bodies.

In 1985, a relationship with Qinhuangdao, China was initiated, and it became a sister city to Toledo. Qinhuangdao and Toledo are both known as "The Glass City" because of their history of glass production.

When the oppression of communism ended in 1989 in Poland, a core group including Councilwoman Eleanor Kahle, future Councilman Peter Ujvagi, Ann Galloway and Sister Ann Frances Klimkowski, and myself discussed the formation of an association to reach out to cities coming to the light of freedom. Szeged, Hungary became the first Sister City in this new approach in 1990 and

Poznan, Poland followed in 1991. We proudly welcomed our newest partners with the mayors and leaders of each community coming together in cultural, economic, educational and humanitarian exchanges.

In 1992 an advisory board of community leaders, the Lucas County Port Authority, Toledo Edison, the Private Industry Council, and the City of Toledo came together to form Toledo Sister Cities International in order to unite existing sister city relationships and develop future affiliations. Twenty-three members of the civic, business, educational, and legal professions created the Founding Board of Trustees in 1993, and the formal incorporation of TSCI as a not-for-profit organization was finalized that year.

The first International Youth Academy was offered by TSCI in 1997, in which students from the Sister Cities attend a three-week long immersion in the culture and language, living with host families in the cities. TSCI also sponsors an international festival each year, during which members of our region share their heritages in a daylong display of heritage, culture, and food showcasing uniqueness while highlighting commonality around the world. Toledo and TSCI were proud to be the host of the Sister City International Conference in 2002, which brought 600 delegates and 300 guests from 28 countries from around the world to Northwest Ohio.

As the years continued, Toledo Sister Cities International flourished. A regional agreement with Lebanon's Beqaa Valley was established in 1998. Relationships were later cemented with Toyohashi, Japan in 2000; Tanga, Tanzania in 2001; Delmenhorst, Germany in 2002; Coimbatore, India in 2010; Hyderabad, Pakistan in 2011; Qinhuangdao/Nanchong, China in 2017 and Coburg, Germany in 2017.

While the stories behind each Sister City are unique, the way that each relationship was established was not—it all came about because people in the Toledo area and throughout the global community found a need to connect with those from another nation. The idea for 'citizen diplomacy' has not diminished as time has marched on. The work that the Toledo Sister Cities International continues to do on behalf of our communities is extraordinary. I am pleased to join Toledo Sister Cities International as we celebrate its 25th Anniversary, reflecting on the past, looking forward to the future, and inspired by an incredible journey of international citizen diplomacy.

RECOGNIZING JAN HACKETT

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jan Hackett, President of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hackett recently received the Tourism Leadership Award at the 2018 Governor's Tourism Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates excellence in leadership skills and abilities.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Association of

Convention and Visitors Bureaus hosts the Governor's Tourism Conference each year. The conference brings together tourism professionals from across the state, including Fannin's own Ms. Hackett.

Tourism is a vital part of Georgia's economy, especially in our beautiful mountain region, employing some 460,000 people across the state and generating over \$63 billion in revenue this year alone. This would not be made possible without individuals like Ms. Hackett.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize Ms. Jan Hackett for her leadership, as well as her dedication to tourism in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

HONORING REGION ONE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Region One Education Services Center. Because of the hard work of their board members, administrators, educators, and students, the Texas Education Agency placed Region One at the top of the performance list.

Region One is made up of Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata Counties. This year, 100 percent of the school districts in Region One met the standard set by the Texas Education Agency, outperforming several regions of similar size. Fourteen of the districts in Region One also earned postsecondary readiness distinctions, three of which earned this distinction for the fifth consecutive year.

By setting high expectations for their students and working with the local communities to better understand their needs, Region One has gone above and beyond to provide South Texas students with the tools they need to succeed. There is no doubt in my mind that Region One will continue to empower young South Texans to perform at the highest levels.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent the hard-working individuals of the Region One Education Services Center. Our region and its recent success is a shining example of what the 15th District of Texas has to offer.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Fintech, focusing on digitization, data, and technology.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine conflicts over ocean resources.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reducing health care costs, focusing on how transparency can lower spending and empower patients.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the implications of the reinterpretation of the Flores settlement agreement for border security and illegal immigration incentives.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold closed hearings to examine inter-agency coordination in the protection of critical infrastructure.

SVC-217

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine blackstart and other system restoration plans in the electric utility industry.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine safeguards for consumer data privacy.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine the cyber operational readiness of the Department of Defense; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine the Federal role in the toxic PFAS chemical crisis.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine justice for Native youth, focusing on the Government Accountability Office-

report on "Native American Youth Involvement in Justice Systems and Information on Grants to Help Address Juvenile Delinquency".

SD-628

OCTOBER 2

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act.

SD-538

OCTOBER 3

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895, Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6115–S6156

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3427–3439, S. Res. 625–628, and S. Con. Res. 46. **Pages S6142–43**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2019”. (S. Rept. No. 115–337)

H.R. 4323, to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 4467, to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies.

H.R. 4559, to conduct a global aviation security review.

S. 2823, to modernize copyright law, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6141**

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 46, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5895. **Page S6135**

Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1050, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6152–53**

Flake (for Duckworth) Amendment No. 4015, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6152–53**

National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged

from further consideration of S. Res. 576, designating September 4, 2018, as “National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Day”, and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6153**

Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 3029, to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act), after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S6153–54

Flake (for Alexander) Amendment No. 4016, to modify provisions relating to the interagency working group. **Pages S6154–55**

National Democracy Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 525, designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6155**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 627, designating September 2018 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”. **Page S6155**

Authorizing Document Production by the SSCI: Senate agreed to S. Res. 628, to authorize document production by the Select Committee on Intelligence in *United States v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr.* (D.D.C.).

Page S6155

Conference Reports:

Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act: By 92 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No.

207), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

Pages S6134–35

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

A motion was entered to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury.

Page S6124

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany the bill, be withdrawn.

Page S6124

Support for Patients and Communities Act and Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the orders of Thursday, September 6, 2018, that on Monday, September 17, 2018, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 6, to provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment, and that the debate time on H.R. 6, and on S. 2554, to ensure that health insurance issuers and group health plans do not prohibit pharmacy providers from providing certain information to enrollees, run concurrently, be equally divided in the usual form, and be considered expired at 5:30 p.m., and that Senate proceed to votes on or in relation to S. 2554, and H.R. 6, with all other provisions of the previous orders remaining in effect.

Page S6155

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 9:45 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, September 13, 2018, it next convene at 2 p.m., on Monday, September 17, 2018.

Page S6155

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the threat of foreign interference in the United States elections; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–47)

Page S6139

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany U.N. Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade (Treaty Doc. 114–7) (Ex. Rept. 115–7).

Pages S6141–42

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 64 yeas 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 206), Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

Page S6133

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 205), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S6132–33

Cherith Norman Chalet, of New Jersey, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador.

Cherith Norman Chalet, of New Jersey, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform.

Page S6156

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Earle D. Litzenberger, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

John Mark Pommersheim, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Austin M. Smith, of South Carolina, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Austin M. Smith, of South Carolina, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army.

Pages S6155–56

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Steven Gardner, of Kentucky, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2018.

Page S6156

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Rae Oliver, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was sent to the Senate on June 25, 2018, from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Page S6156**

Messages from the House: **Page S6139**

Measures Referred: **Page S6139**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6139–41**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S6141**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6143–45**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S6145–47

Additional Statements: **Pages S6136–39**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6147–48**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6148**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6148**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—207) **Pages S6132–35**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3:01 p.m. and adjourned at 7:52 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6155.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COUNTERING RUSSIA

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine countering Russia, focusing on assessing new tools, including S. 2785, to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, after receiving testimony from Leon Aron, American Enterprise Institute, Elizabeth Rosenberg, Center for a New American Security, and Daleep Singh, Atlantic Council, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 6770–6775 and 6777–6792, and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 139, H. Con. Res. 135, and H. Res. 1058 and 1060–1062, were introduced.

Pages H8169–70

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8171–72**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5059, to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act with respect to the registration and supervision of insurance savings and loan holding companies, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–937);

H.R. 6316, to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–938);

H.R. 6330, to amend the Small Business Act to modify the method for prescribing size standards for business concerns (H. Rept. 115–939);

H.R. 6347, to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the 7(a) program to bring them into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–940);

H.R. 6348, to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the section 504 program to bring them into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–941);

H.R. 6367, to amend the Small Business Act to specify what credit is given for certain subcontractors and to provide a dispute process for non-payment to subcontractors, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–942);

H.R. 6369, to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–943);

H.R. 6382, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report certain information to the Congress and to the President, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–944);

H.R. 3398, to amend the Real ID Act of 2005 to permit Freely Associated States to meet identification requirements under such Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–945);

H.R. 4431, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service (H. Rept. 115–946, Part 1);

H.R. 4887, to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–947);

H.R. 6776, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–948); and

H. Res. 1059, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3798) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 17, 2018, through September 24, 2018 (H. Rept. 115–949). **Pages H8168–69**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Meadows to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8109**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H8112**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. **Page H8113**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018: H.R. 6198, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; **Pages H8113–17**

Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018: H.R. 6720, to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption; **Pages H8117–18**

Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act of 2018: H.R. 6690, amended, to establish a smart card pilot program to combat fraud, waste, and abuse and to protect beneficiary identity under the Medicare program; **Pages H8118–20**

Empowering Seniors' Enrollment Decision Act of 2018: H.R. 6662, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the special election period under part C of the Medicare program for certain deemed individuals enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract to certain non-deemed individuals enrolled in such contract; **Pages H8120–21**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ex-

tend the special election period under part C of the Medicare program for certain deemed individuals enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract to any Medicare Advantage eligible individual enrolled in such a contract during the final year such contract is extended, and for other purposes.”. **Page H8121**

Comprehensive Care for Seniors Act of 2018: H.R. 6561, amended, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize certain proposed provisions relating to the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; **Pages H8121–22**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue a final regulation based on the proposed regulation relating to the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.”. **Page H8122**

Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act: H.R. 3635, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program; **Pages H8122–24**

State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act: H.R. 5059, amended, to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act with respect to the registration and supervision of insurance savings and loan holding companies; **Pages H8124–27**

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network Improvement Act of 2018: H.R. 6411, to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies; **Pages H8127–28**

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2018: H.R. 3764, amended, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana; **Pages H8128–29**

Walnut Grove Land Exchange Act: H.R. 5923, amended, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain public lands in Ouachita National Forest, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 379 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 394; **Pages H8129–30, H8157**

Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018: H.R. 4824, amended, to allow certain State permitting authority to encourage expansion of broadband service to rural communities; **Pages H8130–33**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To allow certain State and tribal permitting authority to

encourage expansion of broadband service to rural and tribal communities, and for other purposes.”

Pages H8132–33

Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act: H.R. 2591, amended, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation;

Pages H8133–34

Stigler Act Amendments of 2018: H.R. 2606, amended, to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma;

Pages H8134–36

9/11 Memorial Act: H.R. 6287, amended, to provide competitive grants for the operation, security, and maintenance of certain memorials to victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Pages H8136–39

Every Kid Outdoors Act: H.R. 3186, amended, to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 383 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 395;

Pages H8139–40, H8158

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Act: H.R. 5532, amended, to redesignate the Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park;

Pages H8140–42

Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act: H.R. 660, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets;

Pages H8142–44

Authorizing early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska: H.R. 4689, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 378 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 396;

Pages H8144–45, H8158–59

United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018: S. 2497, amended, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel;

Pages H8145–50

Urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade: H. Res. 401, amended, urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to

outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade;

Pages H8153–55

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.”

Page H8155

Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act of 2018: H.R. 6197, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime;

Pages H8155–57

Repealing section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands: H.R. 5317, amended, to repeal section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands; and

Pages H8159–60

Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act: H.R. 6040, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project.

Pages H8160–62

Permission to File Conference Reports: Agreed by unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House have until midnight on Friday, September 14, 2018, to file conference reports.

Page H8140

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act: H.R. 1911, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally.

Pages H8150–53

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that he had issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the threat of foreign interference in United States elections—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on House Administration, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–152).

Page H8164

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 46 was held at the desk.

Page H8162

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8162.

Quorum Calls Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8157, H8158, and H8159. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEWING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Reviewing Current Developments in Ethiopia”. Testimony was heard from Tibor P. Nagy, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2017; CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3798, the “Save American Workers Act of 2017”; and the Conference report to H.R. 5895, the “Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019”. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3798 under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–84, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervention of any motion except one hour of debate and one motion to recommit if applicable. Debate on the conference report is divided pursuant to clause 8(d) of rule XXII. In section 3, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from September 17, 2018, through September 24, 2018: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date

and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 4, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3. Finally, in section 5, the rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 3 of the resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII (resolutions of inquiry). Testimony was heard from Representatives Black, Kelly of Pennsylvania, and Levin.

Joint Meetings

ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

On Monday, September 10, 2018, *Conferees* agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 5895, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

MINORITY POPULATIONS IN EUROPE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on race, rights, and politics, focusing on black and minority populations in Europe, from Nero Ughwujabo, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Theresa May; Alfiaz Vaiya, European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup; Simon Woolley, Operation Black Vote; Jeff Klein, Each One Teach One; Ali Khan, Open Society Foundations; Olivio Kocsis-Cake; Clive Lewis; Killion Munyama; and Aminata Toure.

FREE-TRADE ZONES

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on free-trade zones from Clay Fuller, American Enterprise Institute, and Pedro Assares Rodrigues, Europol Liaison Bureau, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jack Radisch, OECD High Level Risk Forum, and Stephane Jacobzone, both of Paris, France.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D988)

S. 899, to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that the requirements that new Federal employees who are veterans with service-connected disabilities are provided leave for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disabilities apply to certain employees of the Veterans Health Administration. Signed on September 7, 2018. (Public Law 115–238)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine perspectives on United States agricultural trade, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine an update on transparency at the Congressional Budget Office, 10:30 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the transportation of tomorrow, focusing on emerging technologies that will move America, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the role of United States liquefied natural gas in meeting European energy demand, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine advanced nuclear technology, focusing on safety and associated benefits of licensing accident tolerant fuels for commercial nuclear reactors, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Gail S. Ennis, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Social Security Administration, 2 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine evolving threats to the homeland, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 2961, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, S. 3354, to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, S. 3170, to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, S. 2785, to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, S. 3178, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and the nominations of Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Richard J. Sullivan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jonathan A. Kobes, of South Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Gary Richard Brown, Diane Gujarati, Eric Ross Komitee, and Rachel P. Kovner, each to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Lewis J. Liman, and Mary Kay Vyskocil, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, John M. O'Connor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern

and Western Districts of Oklahoma, John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Joshua Wolson, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Mary S. McElroy, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Martha Maria Pacold, Mary M. Rowland, and Steven C. Seeger, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Jason R. Dunn, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado, and Dallas L. Carlson, to be United States Marshal for the District of North Dakota, both of the Department of Justice, and James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Army Futures Command: Will it help?", 1:30 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6511, the "Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act"; H.R. 3325, the "ACE Kids Act"; H.R. 3891, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of State Medicaid fraud and abuse control units to investigate and prosecute cases of Medicaid patient abuse and neglect in any setting, and for other purposes; H.R. 5306, the "EMPOWER Care Act"; H.R. 6733, to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit group health plans, health insurance issuers, prescription drug plan sponsors, and Medicare Advantage organizations from limiting certain information on drug prices; and H.R. 6753, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a public-private partnership for purposes of identifying health care waste, fraud, and abuse, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled "Air Quality Impacts of Wildfires: Mitigation and Management Strategies", 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining Barriers to Expanding Innovative, Value-Based Care in Medicare", 1:15 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2128, the "Due Process Restoration Act of 2017"; H.R. 4753, the "Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act"; H.R. 4758, the "FOMC Policy Responsibility Act"; H.R. 5534, the "Give Useful Information to Define Effective Compliance Act"; H.R. 6021, the "Small Business Audit Correction Act of 2018"; H.R. 6158, the "Brokered Deposit Affiliate-Subsidiary Moderation Act of 2018"; H.R. 6411, the "FinCEN Improvement Act of 2018"; H.R. 6721, the "FinCEN Modernization Act of 2018"; H.R. 6729, the "Empowering Financial Institutions to Fight Human Trafficking Act of 2018"; H.R. 6737, the "Protect Affordable Mortgages for

Veterans Act of 2018”; H.R. 6741, the “Federal Reserve Reform Act of 2018”; H.R. 6743, the “Consumer Information Notification Requirement Act”; H.R. 6745, the “Access to Capital Creates Economic Strength and Supports Rural America Act”; and H.R. 6751, the “Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2018”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Sanctions Policy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 1017, requesting the President, and directing the Secretary of State, to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of all documents, records, communications, transcripts, summaries, notes, memoranda, and read-aheads in their possession referring to certain communications between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin, 12:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6620, the “Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act”; H.R. 6735, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a vulnerability disclosure policy for Department of Homeland Security internet websites, and for other purposes; H.R. 6740, the “Border Tunnel Task Force Act”; legislation on the Secure Border Communications Act; and S. 1281, the “Hack the Department of Homeland Security Act of 2017”, 10:30 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5634, the “Medical Cannabis Research Act of 2018”; H.R. 6755, the “Judiciary ROOM Act”; H.R. 3487, to amend section 1332 of title 28, United States Code, to provide that the requirement for diversity of citizenship jurisdiction is met if any one party to the case is diverse in citizenship from any one adverse party in the case; H.R. 6754, the “CIRCUIT Act”; H.R. 6730, the “Injunctive Authority Clarification Act of 2018”; H.R. 6758, the “Study of Underrepresented Classes Chasing Engineering and Science Success Act of 2018”; H.R. 2899, the “Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 6063, a bill to enact certain existing laws relating to domestic security as Title 6, United States Code, “Domestic Security” and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; H.R. 6342, a bill to make revisions in Title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; H.R. 6762, a bill to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; and H.R. 6176, a bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6510, the “Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing on H.R. 4985, the “Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Settlement Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Members’ Day Hearing on Proposed Rules Changes for the 116th Congress”, 10 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Environment, joint hearing entitled “Examining the Underlying Science and Impacts of Glider Truck Regulations”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Now Hiring: How the Opioid Epidemic Affects Small Businesses”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “The State of Positive Train Control Implementation in the United States”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 5413, the “Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2018”; and H.R. 6418, the “VA Website Accessibility Act of 2018”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “The Role of the Interagency Program Office in VA Electronic Health Record Modernization”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6760, the “Protecting Family and Small Business Tax Cuts Act of 2018”; H.R. 6757, the “Family Savings Act of 2018”; and H.R. 6756 the “American Innovation Act of 2018”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Conference: meeting of conferees on H.R. 6157, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, 11:30 a.m., HC–5, Capitol.

Conference: meeting of conferees on H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, 1 p.m., HC–5, Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 13 through September 14,
2018

Senate Chamber

Senate will meet in pro forma session on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: September 13, to hold hearings to examine perspectives on United States agricultural trade, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on the Budget: September 13, to hold hearings to examine an update on transparency at the Congressional Budget Office, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 13, to hold hearings to examine the transportation of tomorrow, focusing on emerging technologies that will move America, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 13, to hold hearings to examine the role of United States liquefied natural gas in meeting European energy demand, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 13, to hold hearings to examine advanced nuclear technology, focusing on safety and associated benefits of licensing accident tolerant fuels for commercial nuclear reactors, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: September 13, business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Gail S. Ennis, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Social Security Administration, 2 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 13, to hold hearings to examine evolving threats to the homeland, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 13, business meeting to consider S. 2961, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, S. 3354, to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, S. 3170, to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, S. 2785, to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, S. 3178, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and the nominations of Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Richard J. Sullivan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jonathan A. Kobes, of South Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Gary Richard Brown, Diane Gujarati, Eric Ross Komitee, and Rachel P. Kovner, each to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Lewis J. Liman, and Mary Kay Vyskocil, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, John M. O'Connor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Joshua Wolson, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States Dis-

trict Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Mary S. McElroy, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Martha Maria Pacold, Mary M. Rowland, and Steven C. Seeger, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Jason R. Dunn, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado, and Dallas L. Carlson, to be United States Marshal for the District of North Dakota, both of the Department of Justice, and James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 14, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "U.S. Strategy in Syria", 8 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 14, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Solutions to Strengthen U.S. Public Safety Communications", 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 14, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Better Data and Better Outcomes: Reducing Maternal Mortality in the U.S", 9:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 14, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "U.S. Policy Toward Syria", 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 14, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled "Examining Sober Living Homes", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 14, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2327, "PAWS Act of 2017"; H.R. 5521, the "VA Hiring Enhancement Act"; H.R. 4312, the "Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act"; H.R. 5413, the "Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2018"; H.R. 6409, the "Honoring Veterans' Families Act"; H.R. 6420, to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program; and H.R. 6418, the "VA Website Accessibility Act of 2018", 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Conference: September 13, meeting of conferees on H.R. 6157, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, 11:30 a.m., HC-5, Capitol.

Conference: September 13, meeting of conferees on H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, 1 p.m., HC-5, Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:45 a.m., Thursday, September 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, September 13

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 3798—Save American Workers Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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