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No. 34

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY HULTGREN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

We pray especially for the people of Ukraine and Venezuela, but know that You are aware of those worldwide who suffer from violent unrest. Cover all with the balm of Your healing and peace.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

And bless all peacemakers for their work. May Your eternal spirit be with them, and with us always.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

(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, this week is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, a time to learn more about eating disorders, what causes them, and how to best treat and prevent them.

Eating disorders are widespread, affecting at least 14 million Americans, and are so common among our youth that at least one to two out of every 100 children in America has an eating disorder.

Research has shown that while many eating disorders are caused by a genetic predisposition, environmental factors like peer pressure and false advertising can be overriding contributors.

By the time our children turn 17, they have been exposed to over 250,000 television commercials depicting unrealistic body sizes. Too often this exposure leads to an eating disorder.

I will offer legislation to look at how advertising can more closely resemble true human form. I look forward to working with my colleagues to fight this tragic epidemic of eating disorders.

COMMEMORATING JUDY HARRIS

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate a friend, Judy Harris, a home care worker who passed away last week.

The most glorious part of the job I have is the opportunity to meet and learn from people from all walks of

□ 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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life. I met Judy on her doorstep, and over several years she became someone I cherished—her commitment to serving, her compassion, and her advocacy.

Despite her small frame, Judy had an enormous presence as she fought fiercely for justice in the community and in the halls of government. Judy's advocacy and work with the Service Employees International Union led her to traverse the Nation to make sure those depending on care and those providing care had a voice and had dignity and had respect.

I will remember until my last days the afternoon I spent with Judy for a day in her shoes. By the end of the day, I was exhausted, physically and emotionally. I was so grateful to Judy and to caregivers who do the work they do to help people live with dignity.

Andy Stern used to say that the "power of SEIU was that it was the way that ordinary people could accomplish extraordinary things and the way that the powerless could become powerful." No one demonstrated that better than Judy. I will always be grateful for her tireless work.

FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROTECTED

(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, the American people have lost faith in the President and his administration's ability to serve in an unbiased manner. Sadly, last year's scandal revealed the IRS is targeting organizations who disagree with the President's Big Government agenda.

We should never have to worry that our First Amendment rights are in jeopardy because the government opposes our beliefs. Based on last year's revelations, it is clear that these actions were deliberate. The Founding Fathers treasured the rights of freedom of speech and to petition the government, which is why they were protected first in the Constitution.

On Wednesday, the House acted in a bipartisan vote to prevent future abuse by passing legislation that bans the Treasury Department and the IRS from implementing new requirements targeting political groups. I hope the Senate will take action on this bill so we can ensure that every citizen's First Amendment rights stand protected.

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

A GEM OF THE TEXAS WINTER GARDEN AREA—CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS

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

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, I use some time to talk about the 23rd District. It comprises nearly a quarter of the land area of Texas.

Everybody has heard of the character Popeye and his penchant for spinach, and the spinach capital of the world is Crystal City, Texas. It was named by its early settlers for the clear artesian spring water, and a statue of Popeye was erected there in 1936.

The Spinach Festival is now one of the biggest and best festivals in all of south Texas. It was started in 1936, stopped for a period of time during World War II, and didn't go back up until the 1980s, but it has grown significantly over time.

Crystal City also occupies a unique spot in Texas' political history in that it was the birthplace of the first Latino political party in Texas, La Raza Unida Party, which, for a time, received enough votes to qualify for a statewide ballot.

Crystal City has long been known as a core of civil rights activism, and its rolling fields are now sharing space with the booming Eagle Ford Shale economy of our region.

Come see a gem of the Texas Winter Garden area, Crystal City, Texas.

MAKING RARE DISEASES A THING OF THE PAST

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

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an issue that affects millions of American citizens.

A rare disease is defined as a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 people. There are over 7,000 rare diseases that affect close to 30 million people.

My family knows the difficulties of dealing with a rare disease. My daughter, Chloe, has suffered from cystic fibrosis her entire life. CF is a life-threatening rare disease that causes mucus to build up and block major organs. Chloe is one of only 30,000 people affected by this disease in the United States.

As a rare disease, CF requires specialized care that can cost an individual hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime. Even though there have been advancements in medicine, a CF sufferer may only survive into their thirties. This is much different than it was 50 years ago, where a child was lucky to live to the age of 10.

Today we observe CF and all other rare diseases to stress the importance of funding for rare disease research. Hopefully, we can make rare diseases a thing of the past.

NEED TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to raise the minimum wage for hard-working Americans just struggling to get by. The cost of living has increased, but wages have not.

In Illinois alone, more than 1 million people—a full 20 percent of our workforce—could benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. It could also lead to close to a billion-dollar economic shot in the arm to my State.

Currently, my State's small businesses are at a competitive disadvantage because in our neighboring States of Wisconsin and Iowa, the minimum wage is lower than in ours. Raising the Federal minimum wage could help level this playing field and make small businesses in my region stronger.

Increasing the minimum wage is a win-win situation for the people I represent and for our local economy. I believe strongly that anyone who works full-time should not have to live in poverty.

Let's work together and get this done.

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2014

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014.

Another day in Washington, another boondoggle on the backs of American taxpayers.

I am flabbergasted that in the same week our Secretary of Defense warns of severe defense cuts caused by America's deteriorating financial condition, cuts that risk national security, Congress seeks to force American taxpayers to help build electrical power plants and transmission lines in Africa.

Financial prudence dictates that we reduce our deficits by not spending the money at all. If we must spend it and must choose between Africa or America, Mr. Speaker, I choose spending it in America.

America spends more than \$40 billion a year on foreign aid with money we do not have, borrow to get, and cannot afford to pay back. Mr. Speaker, if financial irresponsibility and economic insanity have a home, rest assured they live in Washington, D.C.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago today, emergency unemployment benefits expired for over 1 million Americans, including 20,000 veterans, and yet this House still has not taken up legislation to provide these workers and their families necessary relief. That is shameful.

I rise to ask immediate action on my legislation, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, which provides a 3-month extension of benefits. 183 Members of the House—over 90 percent of the Democratic Caucus—have signed on to my bill.

Constituents from across my district and across the country have been sharing heartbreaking stories of hardship and pain because these benefits have expired. One constituent, VeraMae of Lynn, Massachusetts, wrote to me and said:

I am one of the people whose benefits expired at the end of the last year. My husband and I have tapped out all of our savings, and I'm beside myself with worry wondering how to make the little that we have remaining last longer. It is a mistake to eliminate this crucial safety net for those of us struggling to get back on our feet.

We should not leave VeraMae and others just like her out in the cold another day longer.

If the moral imperative to act isn't enough, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should consider the economic benefits of extending unemployment insurance. In fact, economists agree that unemployment insurance is one of the best ways to spur economic growth, delivering \$1.52 in economic activity for every dollar spent.

This House should pass that bill immediately.

REMEMBERING MAJOR CHARLES SWIM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I rise today in remembrance of my dear friend and a great patriot, Mr. Charles Swim of Paradise, California.

Charlie was quite a character. He was very involved politically, and if he picked you as the person he thought was going to win, that virtually guaranteed your election. But more importantly, what we know him for in northern California is his service to his Nation and his community.

He was born on April 14, 1927, in Detroit, Michigan, although he claimed Kentucky. His true age at the time he enlisted in the Army was 15. They finally caught up to him when he was 17. He then soon enlisted in the Navy, where he served 6 years during World War II. After that, he rejoined the Army. He also served as a California State parole agent for 27 years, where he successfully fought for the Second Amendment rights of parole agents. Many credit Charlie's efforts to saving their lives.

After retirement, Charlie's extensive knowledge and experience in his field continued to affect those in California's First District, leading him to become appointed the first official historian for the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, 8 children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, 1 niece, and 3 nephews.

Charlie's valiance and warm heart touched and changed many lives. We are very grateful to him. He was deeply loved by his family, friends, and the community, and he will be incredibly missed by all.

□ 0915

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF SALVADOR LARA AND JESUS DURAN

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Salvador Lara and Jesus Duran, two Inland Empire heroes who, after decades of being overlooked, will be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Salvador Lara served in World War II and, while in Italy in 1944, he "aggressively led his rifle squad in neutralizing multiple enemy strong points. The next morning, as his company returned the attack, Lara sustained a severe leg wound but did not stop to receive aid."

Jesus Duran served in Vietnam and saved several wounded Americans on a search-and-clear mission in 1969. According to his son, Chuy, "His platoon was in a fight and a lot of guys were killed. He thought he was going to be left for dead, so he decided to take the M60 and unload."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these heroes are no longer with us and they will receive their Medals of Honor posthumously, but we must never forget their sacrifice, for it is because of their bravery that we are able to continue spreading freedom throughout the world.

UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. 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. 899.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 492 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 899.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 899) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Last Congress, the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee that I chaired began studying the effectiveness of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA, which was enacted in 1995.

We held three legislative hearings, and we inquired with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs about various UMRA provisions and the possible improvements to the law.

During our hearings, representatives from State and local governments, and the private sector, they all came to testify about many of the burdensome mandates that are actually not characterized and not protected under the original Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The analyses often failed to capture the heavy burdens of those regulatory mandates.

UMRA's limited coverage is a concern because, as the chief economist of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council testified: "Unfunded mandates and regulations continually stifle private sector growth and economic expansion."

To help raise awareness about unfunded mandates and ensure more of these mandates are captured by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, was introduced by Representative VIRGINIA FOXX. It is bipartisan legislation that will close existing loopholes in the law and bring more transparency and accountability to the regulatory process.

The legislation has the support of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The American Action Forum, which is headed by former CBO Director Doug Holtz-Eakin, also supports the concepts of this bill.

H.R. 899 requires that independent regulatory agencies comply with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Independent regulatory agencies are currently excluded from review, but the regulations they promulgate can impose significant costs and burdensome requirements.

Currently, regulations issued by agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, they are excluded from cost-benefit analyses otherwise required of other agencies.

The Congressional Research Service found that between 2010 and 2012, nine independent agencies issued 57 major rules. Those are rules with a cost to the economy of over \$100 million. But

none of those agencies monetized both costs and benefits in estimating the impacts of the rules.

H.R. 899 codifies the principles of regulation in Executive Order 12866, issued by President Clinton and reaffirmed in Executive Order 13563, issued by President Obama. It also codifies Executive Order 12866's requirement that agencies conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

H.R. 899 requires agencies to consult with the private sector prior to proposing a major rule. Currently, this requirement only applies to State, local, and tribal governments.

In light of President Obama's emphasis on early stakeholder input on the development of Federal regulations, there is no reason to exclude private sector stakeholders from early consultation in this requirement.

H.R. 899 allows the chairman or ranking member of any congressional committee to request that an agency conduct a retrospective analysis of an existing Federal regulatory mandate.

Again, President Obama even has acknowledged the need for retrospective review, stating that each agency "should periodically review its existing significant regulations to determine whether any such regulations should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed to make the agency's regulatory program more effective or less burdensome in achieving the regulatory objectives." This change would ensure existing regulations are actually reviewed.

H.R. 899 extends judicial review to ensure that agencies carefully consider the least costly or least burdensome regulatory alternatives.

According to the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, the current judicial review provision included in the original UMRA "lacks teeth" and "offers no real incentives for agencies to deal legitimately with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act requirements."

H.R. 899 ensures that Federal agencies and the Congressional Budget Office estimate the entire cost of a Federal mandate, such as forgone profits, costs passed on to consumers, and behavioral changes as a result of a Federal mandate.

The administration said it is "strongly supportive" of the first generation of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. I am glad that we are here today to make the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act even stronger.

I have stated before, and I will state again, making these reforms is not an attack on the current administration. Many of the issues we are here to deal with today did not originate in this administration, and the solutions we propose will extend well beyond this administration.

It is the role and responsibility of Congress to ensure regulations are consistent with legislative intent and they are written to cause the least amount of burden and the greatest possible benefit.

I encourage all Members to support this bill.

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

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

I rise in opposition to H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. This bill is the second major piece of legislation being considered this week that will add needless and counterproductive red tape to the rulemaking process.

I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Oversight Committee has jurisdiction over the executive branch and legislative jurisdiction over government-wide policies.

It is our duty and our responsibility to ensure that the Federal Government is operating effectively and efficiently. It is also the responsibility of every Member of Congress, and we must hold that dearly.

This legislation may be well-intended, but it would have unintended consequences that would make government less efficient and less effective.

We rely on agency rulemakings to protect our children, protect our workers, and protect our economy. The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards, a group of more than 150 good government, labor, scientific, faith, health, and community organizations, sent a letter to the Oversight Committee. Here is just a portion of what that letter said:

The Wall Street economic collapse, the British Petroleum oil spill catastrophe, various food and product safety recalls, and numerous industrial disasters, including the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in West Virginia and the fertilizer plant in West, Texas, have all dramatically demonstrated the need for a stronger regulatory system that is more responsive to the public interest. Congress should be moving forward to protect the public from harm, not rolling back the clock and weakening important safeguards.

Mr. Chairman, now is not the time for us to be adding unnecessary, burdensome requirements to the rulemaking process. Our constituents expect us to make them safer, not to make it harder for agencies to keep them safe.

The bill would give private industry an unfair advantage in the rulemaking process. Under this bill, agencies would be required to consult with corporations before consulting with customers who would be protected by the regulations. In fact, the bill requires agencies to consult with private industry "before issuance of a proposed rulemaking."

This means that, for example, if the Department of Agriculture planned to propose a new food safety rule, corporate agricultural interests would get advance access to the rule, and the opportunity to shape it, before food safety groups, children's health groups,

doctors, or independent scientists are able to participate in the process.

I believe that businesses should have the opportunity to provide comments on proposed rules. I think it is very important. They should do it through the normal public comment process, however, just like other stakeholders.

The bill also would put independent agencies in jeopardy of political interference. The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act currently exempts independent agencies from its reporting requirements. This bill removes that exemption.

That would mean that independent regulatory agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission would have to submit their rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review, which could undermine their independence. I plan to offer an amendment to strike that provision, and I hope it will be adopted.

This is a well-intended bill with serious, negative consequences. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I am submitting for the RECORD letters of exchange between the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committees on Budget and Judiciary and Rules regarding the committees' jurisdictional interest in H.R. 899.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RULES,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: On July 24, 2013, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013. As you know, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives over rules and joint rules of the House.

Because of your willingness to consult with my committee regarding this matter, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 899. In addition, the Committee on Rules reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Rules for conferees on H.R. 899 or related legislation.

I also request that you include this letter and your response as part of your committee's report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,
Chairman, Committee on Rules,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Rules Committee's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 899, the "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013," and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 899 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Rules has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 899 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 899. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Budget Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its jurisdiction.

Please include a copy of this letter and any response in the committee report on H.R. 899 as well as in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of this bill. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on the Budget's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 899, the "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013," and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 899 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Rules has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 899 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R.

899. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing concerning H.R. 899, the "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013," which your Committee ordered reported on July 24, 2013.

As you know, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of H.R. 899. The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 899 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 899, the "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013," and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 899 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 899 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 899. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the

floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, let me start off on a positive note. The positive note is the regular order in which we bring this important legislation. We have held 11 full committee hearings, 30 subcommittee hearings, produced three full staff reports.

Between the work of Chairman JORDAN, Chairman LANKFORD and Congresswoman FOXX on this legislation, there have been countless thousands of hours of hard work to figure the right way to say it to make sure it is narrow and consistent with multiple Presidents' policies of both parties.

This legislation is filled with bipartisan support on each of the bills. This is, in fact, not a Republican or a Democratic idea.

Mr. Chairman, that ends the positive part. I just listened to my ranking member in opposition, and I was shocked—shocked—that he would talk in terms of rulemaking shouldn't have the interference of the private sector. Customers should not look at their supplier being involved in the production of the regulation. Locking out people who have to manufacture the goods, produce the labels, comply with the law in the process is exactly what is wrong in government today.

□ 1030

Mr. Chairman, the American people know full well that a regulation is a law; a rule is a law. The idea that laws are produced in private with often special interest groups on one side only at the table and then put out as a take it or leave it, fight it if you can, is the absurdity of the regulatory state.

Mr. Chairman, this commonsense reform is perhaps too little, rather than too much, because, Mr. Chairman, the lawmaking that is going on in the executive branch, including those so-called independent agencies, is independent of our responsibility, as Members of Congress.

We are supposed to make the laws, and we are supposed to make them in the clear light of day, with all sides having an opportunity to be heard.

Rulemaking for too long has been, in fact, done in secret, shown up without any input, and then those very manufacturers and producers and growers—the regulated—have the option of trying to come here and asking us to strike down or slow down the speed of some ill-conceived regulation.

So this important legislation—something that President Obama supported, something President Clinton supported, something that people in the executive branch understand needs to happen—needs to pass here today. I strongly urge the passage of this bill, this bipartisan legislation.

I thank Chairman LANKFORD, and I thank Congresswoman FOXX.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. CLAY. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 899, the curiously named Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. As a senior member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which passed this ill-conceived omnibus lobbyist gift bag on a strictly partisan vote, I can assure you that the only thing transparent about this bill are the invisible benefits it promises to help our economy.

It is shameful that the majority would advance reckless legislation like this, which would seriously obstruct and weaken the Federal Government's ability to protect clean air and water, ensure a safe workplace, safeguard the purity of our food supply, provide safe medications and medical devices for the sick and injured, and protect consumers from predatory practices that have already caused so much pain across this country.

This bill puts corporate profits ahead of protecting workers and consumers. It would shackle key Federal agencies, like OSHA, the FCC, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and CFPB. It assumes that the ability to regulate is always an evil to be evaded, delayed, or defeated.

It would give business interests advance notice of proposed regulations, but would exclude workers and the public from deliberations. My friends, that is not transparency. That is not good for our economy; and it is a prescription for more fraud and abuse, more environmental disaster, and more workplace accidents.

H.R. 899 would greatly undermine the independence of Federal agencies that the American people depend on to keep them safe at home and at work and to give them a fair shake in the economy. This bill is not a job creator.

It is a gift-wrapped offering to special interest lobbyists who advocate for no new rules, no regulation, and no consequences for their clients, regardless of how much damage they have caused.

H.R. 899 would not only delay or halt the rulemaking process by adding time-consuming and redundant procedures, it would also strip away the public's right to petition agencies when they fail to act. These proposals would severely undermine our Nation's ability to establish and enforce reasonable health, safety, and environmental standards.

Given the multiple health and safety disasters in communities and workplaces across the country that have occurred since the beginning of the year, it is hard to believe that the majority would attempt to weaken standards and safeguards for the public.

You know, Mr. Chairman, recently, the director of the CFPB, Richard

Cordray, came before Congress—testified before Congress and told us that he knows there are no perfect rules in government; and there is a process for Members of this body to challenge those rules and appeal for changes in the rules.

We should follow that process and not come up with flawed legislation like this.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who is the author of H.R. 899 and has worked on this concept for years, to try to repair the inconsistencies in the original law.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding and for shepherding this bill through the committee.

I am especially grateful to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) for his tireless efforts on behalf of this legislation; not only I, but the people of this country owe him a great debt of gratitude.

I also want to commend him for employing such a wonderful staff. They have been a real pleasure to work with and have been devoted to getting this legislation passed.

I want to recognize the efforts of Chairman ISSA and his staff at the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, including his eloquent comments today. They have provided my office with five-star service.

Finally, I want to recognize my esteemed Democrat colleagues, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE MCINTYRE, and COLLIN PETERSON. I am very grateful for their support and wise counsel. They realize that this legislation does not stop the Federal Government from adopting regulations.

And I am, frankly, shocked at the allegations by some of our colleagues on the other side who say this is going to stop the Federal Government from regulating and putting in commonsense rules and regulations.

If you look up the definition of "straw dog" in the dictionary, the arguments against this legislation this morning would fit the bill.

Every year, Mr. Chairman, Washington imposes thousands of pages of rules and regulations on America's small businesses and local governments. Hidden in those pages are costly mandates that make it harder for companies to hire and for cash-strapped States, counties, and cities to keep streets safe and parks clean.

Republicans and Democrats alike agree that each regulation the Federal Government hands down should be deliberative and economically defensible. This bill, H.R. 899, will ensure public and bureaucratic awareness about the cost in dollars and in jobs that Federal dictates pose to the economy and local governments.

There is precedent for bipartisanship on this issue. In 1995, Members from both parties supported and President Clinton signed the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, UMRA, which sought to

expose Washington's abuse of unfunded Federal mandates.

The 1995 bill was designed to force the Federal Government to estimate how much its mandates would cost local governments and employers, not to prevent it from regulating, but to make sure its regulations were fair and efficient.

For the most part, the 1995 law has worked very well; but over the years, weaknesses in that law have been revealed—weaknesses that some government agencies and independent regulatory bodies have exploited.

My bill, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, will correct these oversights and put some weight behind UMRA to ensure no government body purposefully or accidentally skirts public scrutiny when jobs and scarce resources are at stake.

H.R. 899, Mr. Chairman, has bipartisan DNA. It codifies administrative fixes championed by Presidents Clinton and Obama and promotes good government, accountability, and transparency, something we all believe in. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bipartisan bill.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a member of our committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, my good friend from Maryland, ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Mr. Chairman, I was listening to my good friend, Ms. FOXX from North Carolina; and I don't doubt her commitment to try to rein in unfunded mandates, and I certainly supported the 1995 effort, as somebody working at that time in local government, because local governments are burdened with many unfunded Federal mandates. No Child Left Behind, for example, comes to mind.

This legislation before us today, however, is not a simple extension of unfunded mandates. It is something else. Mr. Chairman, any lingering doubt about this week's Republican assault, which is orchestrated on the regulatory process as designed to benefit corporate interests, should be laid to rest with this bill.

Agencies are already required to consult with any interested party during the rulemaking process through a robust public participation and comment period. This bill, however, would single out private sector special interests and give them special treatment and an unfair advantage by requiring agencies to consult with them before a rule is even proposed.

The bill further subverts existing law by opening the door for opponents of regulation or delay to invalidate rules through frivolous litigation. Current law expressly prohibits the courts from blocking a new rule based on the advocacy of an agency's analysis. This bill would expand judicial review to give

for-profit special interests a new tool to tie up regulations with unnecessary litigation.

I would remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that agencies are currently required by existing law and executive order to consider all regulatory alternatives to promote flexibility and to promulgate regulations based on a reasonable determination that the benefits, in fact, justify the costs. That is already in existing law.

Agencies are also required to conduct cost-benefit analyses and increase public participation for all interested parties, not just corporate special interests. Of course, House Republicans also fail to acknowledge that the Obama administration has directed agencies to harmonize rulemaking across agencies and conduct a systematic review of existing regulations to reduce outdated or redundant rules.

Mr. Chairman, if my Republican friends really want to do something meaningful about unfunded mandates, they could work with us to correct the historic failures of the Federal Government to meet its financial obligations to our cash-strapped State and local partners, rather than catering to special, big corporate interests with well-paid lobbyists.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate his leadership on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

He has only been in this institution for 3 years, but he brought with him, when he came, a heart of service that he has been applying his entire lifetime; and it is that heart of service that I think has enabled him to work in a bipartisan way across the aisle.

I will say that it is not without a heavy heart, Mr. Chairman, that I hear folks talk about a Republican assault, a majority this, conservatives that; there are some things that happen in this institution that are party line events. There are things that happen in this institution that are Republicans driving in one way and Democrats driving in the other.

But this is an openness bill today, and by its very introduction, Mr. Chairman—I have a copy of the bill here; it is available for anyone to read online—the very first thing they will see when they open up this piece of legislation are the men and women who came together to offer it.

Now, one of those people is my good friend, the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. LANKFORD from Oklahoma; but so, too, is the gentlelady from California, LORETTA SANCHEZ, who believes in this piece of legislation—not just believes it passing on the floor today, but believes in being a part of the process that drives this forward.

□ 0945

Yes, we heard from my friend, VIRGINIA FOXX, Republican from North

Carolina, but also among the original cosponsors bringing this legislation forward, MIKE MCINTYRE, Democrat, from North Carolina.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is about one thing and one thing only, and that is providing more information and more transparency to all the stakeholders in the process. There are things that are worth doing and there are things that are worth using the power of government to do, but if we are proud of what those things are, we should be proud of sharing that information.

When you get in a car today, Mr. Chairman, there are airbags everywhere. I can't even count the number of airbags when I rent a car these days. Old cars that folks drive, they don't have them, but the new cars do. I don't know what it costs to put that airbag in. I don't know what it cost to promulgate that regulation. I would like to know. But I promise you that, if we were to look at those numbers, we would say it is worth it. It is worth it.

Regulatory burdens on this economy—and we are seeing GDP revised down again today, Mr. Chairman—are undeniable. Maybe they are worth it, but the burden is undeniable. Let's just tell folks what that burden is, and then let's come together and decide whether or not it is something worth doing.

This is not a partisan bill today, Mr. Chairman; this is a bipartisan bill. This isn't about hiding the ball today; this is about transparency. This bill is not about dividing folks; this is about, again, what my friend from Oklahoma has been about since the day he showed up in this institution, and that is bringing people together around tough challenges, but challenges that this institution can rise to do.

I am very proud of the many, many hearings that have been held, the many, many hours of effort that have been invested, and I am pleased to support this legislation on the floor here today, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 18 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 15 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Chairman, one of the most problematic provisions of this bill is the section that expands judicial review under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA. UMRA currently allows a party to challenge in court whether an agency performed the written statement required under UMRA describing the agency's analysis. A court may require the agency to prepare the written statement if the agency fails to do so. The law explicitly provides, however, that a court cannot use the inadequacy of an agency's UMRA statement or an agency's failure to prepare a written statement as a basis to hold up a rule.

Here is what the statute says:

The inadequacy or failure to prepare such a statement, including the inadequacy or failure to prepare any estimate, analysis, statement, or description or written plan shall not be used as a basis for staying, enjoining, invalidating, or otherwise affecting such agency rule.

The bill would change the statute to allow courts to review the adequacy of an agency's analysis under UMRA and to allow rules to be delayed or invalidated based on the inadequacy of an agency's statement. This clearly contradicts the intent of the original statute.

The administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy just yesterday saying that, if H.R. 899 were presented to the President in its current form, he would veto the legislation.

The statement said:

H.R. 899 would unnecessarily add to the already robust analytical and procedural requirements of the rulemaking process. In particular, H.R. 899 would create needless grounds for judicial review, unduly slowing the regulatory process, and, in addition, it would add layers of procedural steps that would interfere with the agency's priority setting and compliance with statutory mandates.

There is another allegation that has been made that I want to address, and that is the allegation that there has been a tsunami of rules issued under President Obama. This is simply inaccurate. President Bush issued 14,387 rules in his first 4 years in office. President Obama issued 13,238 in his first term. That is over 1,000 fewer rules than President Bush issued in the same period of time.

According to the Government Accountability Office, agencies published the lowest numbers of rules in 2012 since GAO began keeping data in 1997. GAO found that the first half of 2013 was also on pace to be another record low year. The Office of Management and Budget in its draft 2013 report to Congress on benefits and costs of Federal regulations compared rulemakings across the 4 years of the Clinton, Bush, and Obama presidencies. Rules issued in the first 4 years of President Obama's administration had a net benefit of approximately \$159 billion. "Net benefit" means the benefits of the rule minus the cost. Rules issued in the first term of President Bush's administration had a net benefit of \$60 billion, and rules under President Clinton's first term had a net benefit of \$30 billion. That means that the rules under President Obama had a bigger net benefit than the Bush administration and the Clinton administration combined.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few brief comments. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to have the opportunity to be able to just dialogue a little bit about some of the things we

just heard about, things like judicial review.

It is a belief of many people on this side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle that agencies are not infallible. They do make mistakes at times, and there are times that an agency will make an estimate on a cost, and it is, let's say, \$90 million, just under the \$100 million threshold. And someone wants to challenge it and says, how did you do the math on that that you ended up just under the major rule threshold?

There is a reason to be able to go back and evaluate some of these things and to have the opportunity to go through a judicial review so in a moment of judicial review there can be a conversation to say, let's check the math before these decisions are made to be able to evaluate, because there has been a large increase in major rules. And while I understand that around election time there was a slowdown of regulations that came up, if you look at the first 5 years of this administration, of their 13,000 rules that were promulgated, 330 of them are classified as major rules—330 of those, major rules—defined as having an estimated annual economic impact of \$100 million or more.

It is a very serious issue to be able to put that many new rules with that large of an impact. It does have a change. And while I understand that some would say this benefits to the economy, what has happened is, year after year for the last several years, CBO comes back and looks at our long-term economic forecast and gives a slower forecast.

In 2014 again, they have come out and said that, in this current economy with what is happening, it is another slowdown and another over \$1 trillion loss in our economy that CBO has estimated over the next 10 years because the economy continues to slow down. We are just asking the question, is it possible? Because so many major regulations are coming out and no one has had a check on that.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for his leadership and for his passion.

This is one of those areas, quite frankly, as we look at unfunded mandates, that is taking the power from Washington, D.C., and giving it back to the elected officials in our States, our county governments, and our cities.

The gentleman from Virginia, from the other side, earlier said that certainly he supported this when he was a local official elected there in Virginia, and rightly so. Because I can share a personal story, Mr. Chairman, from a senator, Jim Davis, from my home State who was a county commissioner and now a State senator. I asked him, why do you have such a hard time balancing the budget here in the State? And he gave me two words: unfunded mandates.

Why is that? Because we continue to pass regulation after regulation after regulation, send them down to the States and ask the States to deal with them. The States say, well, we don't have money to implement this. They send it even further, to the county governments. So what happens is that property taxes go up at the local level, State income taxes go up there, all because we believe that we know what is best here in Washington, D.C., on how to implement rules and regulations.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that during the first term of the Obama administration we saw a 10 percent increase in regulatory budgets. Now, that is a 10 percent increase in regulatory budgets when the average American hardworking taxpayer saw their budgets go down.

There is something wrong with this, Mr. Chairman. And as we start to look at this, there was a study in 2011—a study in 2011—that said, with each 5 percent reduction in regulatory process, you can create 1.2 million jobs. Well, Mr. Chairman, we have a problem with creating jobs here, and this is a commonsense solution to rein in what is happening here in Washington, D.C., and allow that control to go back to the States and local government.

So the bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is this: to vote against this is a vote that says that we know better how to do business here in Washington, D.C., than the elected officials in State, county, and local governments. I can tell you that the best decisions are made at those local and State levels. I think it is high time that we come back and roll it back in this simple process to make sure that these regulatory reforms and the unfunded mandates that accompany them truly are not a burden on those hardworking American taxpayers.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I would like to inquire as to whether the other side has additional speakers.

Mr. LANKFORD. We do not, sir. We are prepared to close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. So, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I will close. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I want to go back to the legislative history of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the law that would be amended by this bill today. The Senate report on the bill that was signed into law said:

The primary purpose of S. 1, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, is to start the process of redefining the relationship between the Federal Government and State, local, and tribal governments. In addition, the bill would require an assessment of legislative and regulatory proposals on the private sector. The bill accomplishes this purpose by ensuring that the impact of legislative and regulatory proposals on those governments and the private sector are given full consideration in Congress and the executive branch before they are acted upon.

The bill we are considering today goes far beyond the purposes of the original law. This bill goes beyond simply ensuring that the Federal Govern-

ment considers the potential impact of a regulation on State and local governments or the private sector. Instead, the bill would put the interests of corporations ahead of the interests of our own constituents. Something is wrong with that picture.

Members should vote against this bill, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1000

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill. It is a simple, straightforward bill that asks a couple of quick questions: Do the people of America work for the Federal Government, or does the Federal Government work for the people of America? It is a straightforward question. This bill requires that the Federal Government and every agency have a conversation with the people they regulate to make sure that they actually understand what they are doing when they regulate.

I understand full well, there are plenty of well-meaning people here in Washington, D.C., who are serving our Nation faithfully, but they do not know every State in the country. They don't know every business in the country. That is not what they do full time. They manage here for the Federal Government full time, but they are given the responsibility to be able to promulgate rules and regulations that they may or may not have any idea even how that will be accomplished when they get there, or the real cost of that. The estimates that occasionally come up for the different costs we find out later are much, much higher than were ever estimated by a Federal agency.

So this bill does a few things.

In 1995, we said we are not going to put unfunded mandates on cities, States, and counties or tribes unless there is a compelling reason to do so, and then we could override and do that. This bill says that should be true of the American people as a whole, that we should not pour out some unfunded mandates across the entire economy unless there is some compelling reason to do so, and then Congress still has the authority to do that at that point, if needed.

This also says there should be some sort of judicial review so if someone in some agency makes a mistake, which we all as humans do, there is an opportunity to be able to respond to that, and an outlet where they can go to get justification for that, rather than having to go back to the agency that created the rule to say, Would you please change it? They say, No, but you can appeal it to the person in the cubicle next to me, appeal it to them. They says let's go to an outside entity. That seems to be an American system, that when you have a difference of opinion, you have an opportunity to be able to resolve that with someone outside the system.

This is an opportunity to reconnect the Federal Government back to the people that we are sent to represent and to say it is essential that we close the loopholes that exempt out some agencies, that we close the loopholes that allow agencies to move forward on putting down major regulations without evaluating those things, and we allow a distinct opportunity for the American people and their own government to have dialogue again and to say if we are going to resolve our differences on this and we are going to provide safety and security for people across the Nation, let's do it together in the least costly, least burdensome way possible.

I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to stand with me to provide greater transparency and greater conversation to the American people and their own government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOMACK). All time for general debate has expired.

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

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 899

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 "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is—

(1) to improve the quality of the deliberations of Congress with respect to proposed Federal mandates by—

(A) providing Congress and the public with more complete information about the effects of such mandates; and

(B) ensuring that Congress acts on such mandates only after focused deliberation on their effects; and

(2) to enhance the ability of Congress and the public to identify Federal mandates that may impose undue harm on consumers, workers, employers, small businesses, and State, local, and tribal governments.

SEC. 3. PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDIES ON POLICIES INVOLVING CHANGES IN CONDITIONS OF GRANT AID.

Section 202(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) **ADDITIONAL STUDIES.**—At the request of any Chairman or ranking member of the minority of a Committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives, the Director shall conduct an assessment comparing the authorized level of funding in a bill or resolution to the prospective costs of carrying out any changes to a condition of Federal assistance being imposed on State, local, or tribal governments participating in the Federal assistance program concerned or, in the case of a bill or joint resolution that authorizes such sums as are necessary, an assessment of an estimated level of funding compared to such costs."

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF DIRECT COSTS TO REFLECT CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PRACTICE.

Section 421(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658(3)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting "incur or" before "be required"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after "to spend" the following: "or could forgo in profits, including costs passed on to consumers or other entities taking into account, to the extent practicable, behavioral changes,".

SEC. 5. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Paragraph (1) of section 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658) is amended by striking "but does not include independent regulatory agencies" and inserting "except it does not include the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee".

SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO REPLACE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(c) (2 U.S.C. 1511(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET" and inserting "OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS"; and

(B) by striking "Director of the Office of Management and Budget" and inserting "Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs";

(2) in section 205(c) (2 U.S.C. 1535(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "OMB"; and

(B) by striking "Director of the Office of Management and Budget" and inserting "Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs"; and

(3) in section 206 (2 U.S.C. 1536), by striking "Director of the Office of Management and Budget" and inserting "Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs".

SEC. 7. APPLYING SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF ORDER TO PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.

Section 425(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "Federal intergovernmental mandates" and inserting "Federal mandates"; and

(2) by inserting "or 424(b)(1)" after "section 424(a)(1)".

SEC. 8. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

Section 201 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 201. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each agency shall, unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector (other than to the extent that such regulatory actions incorporate requirements specifically set forth in law) in accordance with the following principles:

"(1) Each agency shall identify the problem that it intends to address (including, if applicable, the failures of private markets or public institutions that warrant new agency action) as well as assess the significance of that problem.

"(2) Each agency shall examine whether existing regulations (or other law) have created, or contributed to, the problem that a new regulation is intended to correct and whether those regulations (or other law) should be modified to achieve the intended goal of regulation more effectively.

"(3) Each agency shall identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation,

including providing economic incentives to encourage the desired behavior, such as user fees or marketable permits, or providing information upon which choices can be made by the public.

"(4) If an agency determines that a regulation is the best available method of achieving the regulatory objective, it shall design its regulations in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the regulatory objective. In doing so, each agency shall consider incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, the costs of enforcement and compliance (to the government, regulated entities, and the public), flexibility, distributive impacts, and equity.

"(5) Each agency shall assess both the costs and the benefits of the intended regulation and, recognizing that some costs and benefits are difficult to quantify, propose or adopt a regulation, unless expressly prohibited by law, only upon a reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs.

"(6) Each agency shall base its decisions on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other information concerning the need for, and consequences of, the intended regulation.

"(7) Each agency shall identify and assess alternative forms of regulation and shall, to the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than specifying the behavior or manner of compliance that regulated entities must adopt.

"(8) Each agency shall avoid regulations that are inconsistent, incompatible, or duplicative with its other regulations or those of other Federal agencies.

"(9) Each agency shall tailor its regulations to minimize the costs of the cumulative impact of regulations.

"(10) Each agency shall draft its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

"(b) **REGULATORY ACTION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "regulatory action" means any substantive action by an agency (normally published in the Federal Register) that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or regulation, including advance notices of proposed rulemaking and notices of proposed rulemaking."

SEC. 9. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF STATEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1532) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, before promulgating any general notice of proposed rulemaking or any final rule, or within six months after promulgating any final rule that was not preceded by a general notice of proposed rulemaking, if the proposed rulemaking or final rule includes a Federal mandate that may result in an annual effect on State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, in the aggregate of \$100,000,000 or more in any 1 year, the agency shall prepare a written statement containing the following:

"(1) The text of the draft proposed rulemaking or final rule, together with a reasonably detailed description of the need for the proposed rulemaking or final rule and an explanation of how the proposed rulemaking or final rule will meet that need.

"(2) An assessment of the potential costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking or final rule, including an explanation of the manner in which the proposed rulemaking or final rule is consistent with a statutory requirement and avoids undue interference

with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

“(3) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of benefits anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the promotion of the efficient functioning of the economy and private markets, the enhancement of health and safety, the protection of the natural environment, and the elimination or reduction of discrimination or bias).

“(4) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of costs anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the direct costs both to the Government in administering the final rule and to businesses and others in complying with the final rule, and any adverse effects on the efficient functioning of the economy, private markets (including productivity, employment, and international competitiveness), health, safety, and the natural environment);

“(5) Estimates by the agency, if and to the extent that the agency determines that accurate estimates are reasonably feasible, of—

“(A) the future compliance costs of the Federal mandate; and

“(B) any disproportionate budgetary effects of the Federal mandate upon any particular regions of the Nation or particular State, local, or tribal governments, urban or rural or other types of communities, or particular segments of the private sector.

“(6)(A) A detailed description of the extent of the agency’s prior consultation with the private sector and elected representatives (under section 204) of the affected State, local, and tribal governments.

“(B) A detailed summary of the comments and concerns that were presented by the private sector and State, local, or tribal governments either orally or in writing to the agency.

“(C) A detailed summary of the agency’s evaluation of those comments and concerns.

“(7) A detailed summary of how the agency complied with each of the regulatory principles described in section 201.”

(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR DETAILED SUMMARY.**—Subsection (b) of section 202 of such Act is amended by inserting “detailed” before “summary”.

SEC. 10. ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.

Section 204 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1534) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND PRIVATE SECTOR**” before “**INPUT**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business),” after “on their behalf”;

(B) by striking “Federal intergovernmental mandates” and inserting “Federal mandates”; and

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) **GUIDELINES.**—For appropriate implementation of subsections (a) and (b) consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the following guidelines shall be followed:

“(1) Consultations shall take place as early as possible, before issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking, continue through the final rule stage, and be integrated explicitly into the rulemaking process.

“(2) Agencies shall consult with a wide variety of State, local, and tribal officials and impacted parties within the private sector (including small businesses). Geographic, political, and other factors that may differentiate varying points of view should be considered.

“(3) Agencies should estimate benefits and costs to assist with these consultations. The scope of the consultation should reflect the

cost and significance of the Federal mandate being considered.

“(4) Agencies shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) seek out the views of State, local, and tribal governments, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business), on costs, benefits, and risks; and

“(B) solicit ideas about alternative methods of compliance and potential flexibilities, and input on whether the Federal regulation will harmonize with and not duplicate similar laws in other levels of government.

“(5) Consultations shall address the cumulative impact of regulations on the affected entities.

“(6) Agencies may accept electronic submissions of comments by relevant parties but may not use those comments as the sole method of satisfying the guidelines in this subsection.”

SEC. 11. NEW AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

Section 208 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1538) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 208. OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall provide meaningful guidance and oversight so that each agency’s regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 are consistent with the principles and requirements of this title, as well as other applicable laws, and do not conflict with the policies or actions of another agency. If the Administrator determines that an agency’s regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 do not comply with such principles and requirements, are not consistent with other applicable laws, or conflict with the policies or actions of another agency, the Administrator shall identify areas of non-compliance, notify the agency, and request that the agency comply before the agency finalizes the regulation concerned.

“(b) **ANNUAL STATEMENTS TO CONGRESS ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.**—The Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs annually shall submit to Congress, including the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, a written report detailing compliance by each agency with the requirements of this title that relate to regulations for which a written statement is required by section 202, including activities undertaken at the request of the Director to improve compliance, during the preceding reporting period. The report shall also contain an appendix detailing compliance by each agency with section 204.”

SEC. 12. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210; and

(2) by inserting after section 208 the following new section 209:

“SEC. 209. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

“(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—At the request of the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing or select committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, an agency shall conduct a retrospective analysis of an existing Federal regulation promulgated by an agency.

“(b) **REPORT.**—Each agency conducting a retrospective analysis of existing Federal

regulations pursuant to subsection (a) shall submit to the chairman of the relevant committee, Congress, and the Comptroller General a report containing, with respect to each Federal regulation covered by the analysis—

“(1) a copy of the Federal regulation;

“(2) the continued need for the Federal regulation;

“(3) the nature of comments or complaints received concerning the Federal regulation from the public since the Federal regulation was promulgated;

“(4) the extent to which the Federal regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal regulations, and, to the extent feasible, with State and local governmental rules;

“(5) the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the Federal regulation;

“(6) a complete analysis of the retrospective direct costs and benefits of the Federal regulation that considers studies done outside the Federal Government (if any) estimating such costs or benefits; and

“(7) any litigation history challenging the Federal regulation.”

SEC. 13. EXPANSION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Section 401(a) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1571(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A)—

(A) by striking “sections 202 and 203(a)(1) and (2)” each place it appears and inserting “sections 201, 202, 203(a)(1) and (2), and 205(a) and (b)”; and

(B) by striking “only” each place it appears;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “section 202” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “section 202, prepare the written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or comply with section 205(a) and (b), a court may compel the agency to prepare such written statement, prepare such written plan, or comply with such section.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “written statement or plan is required” and all that follows through “shall not” and inserting the following: “written statement under section 202, a written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or compliance with sections 201 and 205(a) and (b) is required, the inadequacy or failure to prepare such statement (including the inadequacy or failure to prepare any estimate, analysis, statement, or description), to prepare such written plan, or to comply with such section may”.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the bill is in order except those printed in House Report 113-362. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-362.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 5.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment to strike section 5 of H.R. 899. My amendment would preserve the integrity of independent agencies.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act currently exempts independent agencies. The bill we are considering would remove that exemption. That would mean that these agencies would have to submit their rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

Congress creates independent agencies to be just that, independent. Requiring these agencies to submit their rules for review by the White House, no matter who is President, would be inappropriate.

Some of the agencies that would be impacted by this provision include the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Federal Communications Commission.

This amendment simply maintains the exemption for independent agencies that is current in law. I urge every Member of this body to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, independent regulatory agencies impose significant costs on our economy and often impose Federal mandates on State and local governments and the private sector. The Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Federal Communications Commission are just a few examples of agencies that impose regulations without consideration of the actual cost or impact on the public.

Now, this bill does not prevent agencies from creating regulations. The amendment gives the impression that this will be a wild West, and all of these agencies will be limited. It only asks them to consider the cost and the impact of those regulations and to have some conversation with people on how it could be done less burdensome or less expensive.

According to a 2011 Administrative Law Review article:

Analysis conducted by independent regulatory agencies is generally the minimum required by statute. In many instances, the independent regulatory agencies appear to be issuing major regulations without reporting any quantitative information on benefits and costs.

OMB's 2013 draft report to Congress on the benefits and costs of Federal regulations and unfunded mandates

provides a limited view of the cost-benefit analyses conducted by a limited number of independent regulatory agencies. For major rules issued by agencies included in the report, more than 35 percent were issued without any cost-benefit analysis at all.

CRS reports that from fiscal year 2010 through fiscal year 2012, 57 major rules were issued by nine independent agencies, but none of those rules included monetized cost-benefit analyses, and less than 50 percent provided any estimate as to costs at all.

The cost-benefit analyses under UMRA are essential for a transparent and accountable regulatory system. Reporting on the analyses does nothing to compromise the independence of these agencies, and we know this because OMB already reports on whether or not several independent agencies are conducting the analyses—including the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Reserve, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Requiring that these agencies are covered by UMRA does not require that OMB review or approve of the analyses, only that the agencies are accountable for considering the costs and the benefits of imposing unfunded mandates on State and local governments and the private sector.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. As I close, let me say this, Mr. Chairman. Again, these are independent agencies. Independent agencies could be required to do cost-benefit analysis without requiring rules to go through OMB. This bill allows the administrator of OIRA to hold up a rule if he or she determines the agency didn't comply. I would urge Members to vote in favor of my amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, as I have stated before, it is entirely appropriate for independent agencies to have to also review the cost in the actual context of what they are accomplishing and the economy itself. That is an appropriate thing for every agency to do. We should count the costs before regulations are actually imposed on our economy. So I oppose this amendment. I have great respect for my colleague, but I have to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113-362.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 13, line 6, strike "and".

Page 14, line 16, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

Page 14, after line 16, insert the following:

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) TREATMENT OF OTHER IMPACTED PARTIES.—Any opportunity for consultation afforded to impacted parties within the private sector under this section shall be afforded to representatives of all other impacted parties."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to offer this amendment on behalf of myself and my good friend, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH).

H.R. 899 boasts an Orwellian title that attempts to deceive the public into believing that the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act is simply an innocuous attempt to enhance transparency—rather than the subversive legislative assault on public health, safety, and environmental protections that it truly is.

H.R. 899 is simply an effort to throw a wrench into the rulemaking process, ensuring that private industry is provided privileges and rights far above any other stakeholder in the regulatory process.

In many respects, H.R. 899 represents the Mitt Romney principle on steroids, for it appears that in the minds of our friends on the other side of the aisle, not only is it a fact that "corporations are people, my friend," but under this measure, Republicans appear to be embracing an ethos that treats corporations better than people.

Regrettably, this bill provides private corporations with an unfair consultation advantage over every other stakeholder in the regulatory process. That is indefensible.

Under this bill, Federal agencies would be required to consult with private industry "before issuance of a proposed rulemaking," yet it does not afford the same level of consultation to average citizens who rely on agency rules to preserve and protect their health, welfare, and safety.

There is no justification for enacting an irrational statutory framework that requires the Federal Government to consult with private firms, such as a large agribusiness firm, prior to imposing a rule that will impact that company, yet does not require consultation with public health experts, or everyday Americans who will be forced to live with the consequences of a given regulation.

I cannot defend a regulatory framework that would provide big oil companies, for example, a guaranteed right to

weigh in before any drilling regulation is promulgated, but would not require equal consultation with public interest organizations, such as entities committed to protecting and preserving our Nation's environment and natural resources, or the communities that could be directly impacted by such activities.

To be clear, I strongly support the rights of industry to have an opportunity to provide comments on proposed rules. It fosters more informed, quality rulemaking, and benefits both businesses and our broader society. Indeed, that is why our current administrative procedures mandate that a public comment process be conducted to allow any individual or corporation to participate and provide input and feedback in an equal, fair, and open process. That is current law.

The amendment that Congresswoman DUCKWORTH and I are proposing today would simply ensure that all participants in the rulemaking process be provided equal consultation rights with agencies. For example, as Ranking Member CUMMINGS noted earlier, if the U.S. Department of Agriculture were to propose a public health rule affecting agribusiness in an effort to protect the health of everyday Americans, our amendment would ensure that not only the agribusinesses, but also food safety experts, children's health organizations, medical associations, and scientific entities would also be provided an opportunity to consult with USDA prior to the issuance of the proposed rule.

I strongly urge all Members to support our commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chair, it may be a good moment to shine some facts into this debate. I agree that expanding the consultation requirements for the impacted parties is important. Those parties directed affected by the regulation should have an opportunity to be able to voice concerns about feasibility and offer sensible corrections from people with expertise from years of experience. That is a large part of what this bill does; when a regulation comes down, impacted individuals should be able to come to the table to be able to discuss what is the impact of this.

This particular amendment is completely redundant. It requires that any opportunity for consultation afforded to impacted parties within the private sector under the section shall be afforded to representatives of all other impacted parties.

Well, UMRA already defines the private sector as individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, educational and nonprofit institutions, but it shall not include State, local, and tribal governments since State, local, and tribal governments are already

covered in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, the original one. So I have to ask the question: Who is left? If it already covers individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, educational and nonprofit institutions, State, local, and tribal governments, it covers everyone already.

If you are impacted by legislation and by regulation, you should have the opportunity to respond to that. We completely agree.

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It is important to note this is not the only opportunity to offer suggestions and critiques though. Those not directly regulated by the rule have an opportunity for input during the comment period as required by the Administrative Procedures Act in the executive order.

This perception that somehow people are being locked out of the process is incorrect. It is the people that are impacted, though, that should have the first voice. That would be people impacted in the community, that would be people impacted in business, or any kind of government.

For example, under current law, taxpayers and public workers are not required to be consulted prior to an agency proposing a rule that will put a Federal mandate on the States and local governments, a mandate that could require public entities to ship resources that could affect hiring decisions or a reduction in public services.

Taxpayers, public workers, consumer groups, and anyone else who is interested—but not directly impacted—have that opportunity to provide input at notice and comment stage; but this amendment, however, appears to repeat the consultation requirement that H.R. 899 seeks to provide.

Those Members who want impacted parties to have an early voice in development of regulations that impose burdensome mandates on the private sector ought to just vote for the bill. Adding a repetitive requirement creates ambiguity about the intent of Congress, and for that reason, I oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 90 seconds remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I don't quite understand the opposition of my friend from Oklahoma; if it is duplicative, then it is harmless. I think clarification to make sure that citizens have the same rights as special interests and corporations is actually a good thing to clarify. I don't think it adds ambiguity; I think it adds clarity, which may be why my good friend opposes it.

I would also ask, at this time, a statement to every Member of Congress endorsing this amendment from the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards be entered into the RECORD.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

COALITION FOR SENSIBLE SAFEGUARDS,

February 26, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS), which includes more than 150 labor, environmental, public health, scientific, consumer, financial reform, and public interest groups, strongly opposes H.R. 899, the dangerous and harmful "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013." This proposal would undermine our nation's ability to set health, safety and environmental standards as well as new financial protections. Given that we have experienced multiple health and safety disasters in communities and workplaces across the country in recent years, it is the wrong time to thwart the progress of necessary public protections.

While CSS strongly urges members to vote no on H.R. 899, CSS encourages members to support the amendments offered below:

Amendment #1 sponsored by Congressman Cummings (MD): This amendment strikes section 5 of the bill, which would eliminate the current exemption from the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act for certain independent agencies. This crucial amendment would ensure that agencies that Congress designated to be independent of the Executive Branch remain so. Further, the amendment would ensure that the important regulations of these agencies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are not subject to this legislation's wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.

Amendment #4 sponsored by Congresswoman Jackson-Lee (TX): This amendment adds Section 14 to the bill to clarify that the requirements of UMRA as amended by this Act do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of the regulatory action exceed its costs. This commonsense amendment makes clear that regulations whose benefits to public health and safety exceed the costs to regulated industries, thereby making them good public investments, are not legislation's wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.

Amendment #5 sponsored by Congressman Connolly (VA): This amendment ensures that other impacted entities, such as public interest organizations, are provided any opportunity for consultation afforded to the private sector under the Act. This commonsense amendment levels the playing field to allow public interest organizations the same privilege and access that the legislation only affords to the business community and ensures that the regulatory process is fair and open to all stakeholders in an equal manner.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE MCFATE,
President and CEO,
Center for Effective
Government; Co-
chair, Coalition for
Sensible Safeguards.

ROBERT WEISSMAN,
President, Public Cit-
izen; Co-chair, Co-
alition for Sensible
Safeguards.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of things that I oppose in government. Duplication is one of those. Clarity is best done when it is clear and it is said one time and it is consistent.

It is already very clear. Individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, and educational and nonprofit

institutions are included in this. All those who are impacted can step up in front of an agency and say: we will be impacted.

You are a person; you are a citizen; you are an individual. You have an opportunity to be able to come and join into that conversation.

We believe strongly that you should have the opportunity, if you are impacted, to get your voice heard. Again, the Federal Government works for people; people don't work for the Federal Government. So when you are impacted, you should also have a voice as well.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chair, I strongly support efforts to make sure that government regulations are not overly burdensome and do not needlessly harm business growth.

In fact the very first piece of legislation I introduced—the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act—sought to help small businesses lower the costs of complying with federal regulations.

But I am very concerned that H.R. 899 goes beyond well intentioned efforts to make the regulatory process more accessible to stakeholders, and instead seeks to give big businesses a voice so loud that it drowns out American consumers.

In particular, Section 10 of the bill, which would allow the private sector exclusive early access to the rule-making process, will give just one stakeholder unnecessary and unfair influence.

Increasing stakeholder input in the rulemaking process is a worthy goal, and businesses should certainly be a part of that, but we can't govern only on behalf of one stakeholder.

Our government should work for all Americans, not just some.

And we have a responsibility to balance the priorities of our society as a whole with the interests of business.

When we're talking about a rule that governs whether moms and dads in Illinois can have peace of mind that the food their children eat won't make them sick, or that a worker at a manufacturing facility in my district doesn't have to choose between a paycheck and their workplace safety—the stakes could not be higher.

The concerns of these Americans should not matter less than those of corporations seeking to maximize their profits. They deserve a seat at the table as well.

This amendment seeks to level the playing field and improve transparency for all Americans.

It would simply give individuals the same rights provided to corporations under this bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this common sense, good government amendment that will stand up for the rights of all Americans.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-362.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 14. INAPPLICABILITY OF UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT IF COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS SHOWS BENEFITS OF REGULATORY ACTION EXCEED COSTS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.), as amended by this Act, shall not apply to a regulatory action if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates the benefits of the regulatory action exceed the costs of the regulatory action.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the chairman for the time and to the two managers of this particular legislation on the floor, particularly to the ranking member for his leadership, and simply ask the question: For those of us who have served in this body the time when the unfunded mandate's original legislation was passed, what possible addition this particular amendment can have?

Let me first start off by saying that I appreciate the good intentions of work that is brought to the floor of the House; but I want to remind my colleagues that, as we speak, the growing numbers of the uninsured continue to rise, and the emergency unemployment insurance has not been passed by this body.

In fact, not passing unemployment insurance is an unfunded mandate. For what we do is we say to the States that 1.3-1.5 million-plus, including family members, of individuals who have worked and who are out every day looking for work are no longer the responsibility of anyone here in the Federal Government.

After the States have maxed out on their 26 weeks, we simply throw these people into the streets. I would imagine that States and nonprofits may have to address their needs through homeless shelters, through food banks, soup kitchens, and other municipality resources that they can scramble together.

It is interesting that we are here discussing an unfunded mandate. As we speak, millions of Americans are suffering because we have refused to address an important issue.

In addition, the minimum wage has thrown throngs of individuals into the claws of desperation on the lack of raising it, of which I have signed a petition—a discharge petition to do so.

As I rise, I want to acknowledge my amendment, which specifically indicates that, if the benefits exceed the costs, then this industry or the industries or this particular provision would not be covering. It clarifies that the provisions of the bill do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of a regulatory action exceed its costs.

My amendment improves the bill by ensuring that regulatory actions needed to protect the public health, safety, and environment can be promulgated and implemented and not be stymied by dilatory tactics.

The Jackson Lee amendment is strongly supported by the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards, an organization comprised of more than 150 public health, scientific, consumer, environmental, labor, financial, and public interest groups.

Let me say something that I think my colleagues need to know that is distinctive about this amendment. There is a requirement that Federal agencies consult with private corporations.

I heard my good friend say that the Federal Government is for the people, not the other way around. But guess what? There is no requirement for consultation with stakeholders or the public before proposing any new rules. How hypocritical is that? I must consult with private corporations—many of us represent them. We appreciate the work they create—but none of the stakeholders need to be consulted with.

So I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I can tell you I am all for a cost-benefit analysis, but the challenge of doing a cost-benefit analysis comes down to who is doing the cost-benefit analysis and what are they putting into it.

There have been multiple times that we have had conversations about a cost-benefit analysis, and there has been a push back to say: well, let's go back and check the math on that later and see if we actually got the benefit that was proposed that we will receive for that benefit.

A benefit analysis, in particular, is kind of under scrutiny by academics, even under the Obama administration. As an example, the EPA issued a new standard for mercury emissions and reported that benefits of the rule were up to \$90 billion a year, far above their \$10 billion a year cost.

Less than .01 of that \$90 billion in benefits was attributable to actual reduction in mercury, though; instead, nearly all the benefits came from reductions in fine particles, a pollutant that was not even the purposed target of the regulation itself. Fine particle cobenefits accounted for two-thirds of the benefits of the economically significant rules in 2010.

This administration has padded the benefit analysis with private benefits. In the fuel economy standards, for instance, for cars and light trucks, nearly 90 percent of the \$338 billion in lifetime benefits were benefits to consumers, such as reduced fuel consumption, and—how about this one—shorter refueling times.

Private benefits account for 92 percent of the benefits in energy efficiency standards for washing machines and 70 percent of the benefits in energy efficiency standards for refrigerators.

Essentially, the private benefit accounting is a claim that depriving consumers of preferred choices will make them better off because benefits like fuel savings are worth more to consumers than consumers actually realized.

To exclude regulations from an UMRA analysis, based on faulty and misleading benefits analysis, would only encourage distortion. Further, the point of UMRA is to identify burdensome new mandates for the parties that have to bear the burden.

You see, that company bears the burden. That cost gets passed on directly to consumers. So this “private benefits”—that you are going to get more benefit than you thought you would ever get or will ever see—doesn’t offset the cost they do see coming out of their paycheck when gasoline is more expensive, groceries are more expensive, and electricity is more expensive.

Often, parties who pay the cost of these regulations are not the same parties that actually enjoy the benefits. Even if a rule is predicted to have a net benefit, impacted entities should be made aware of sizable new burdens imposed by Federal mandates.

For this reason, I do oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 90 seconds remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me quickly say that, in the previous bill, it was well noted that there were exemptions dealing with constitutional issues and civil rights issues; so my amendment is in track, on line with the original bill that gave exemptions.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I want us to be able to move forward on this bill. I want the American people to know that their government serves them and that individuals are able to

be able to speak back to their own government when their government is imposing a regulation on them.

I think that is entirely reasonable for any affected party to be able to engage in conversation with their own government. I think it is entirely appropriate.

This is long overdue. The 1995 UMRA bill was written with large loopholes that exempted out agencies, exempted out different entities. It created an environment where it is beneficial to the agency to distort the cost. Let’s clear that.

Let’s just get back to doing what we should do, not people trying to sneak in rules, not people trying to sneak in a different cost-benefit analysis. Let’s just have conversation again between the American people and the government that they are in charge of.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his analysis; but let me offer to him that, first of all, this particular legislation will be subject to a veto threat because, as the President has noted, there is already a robust, analytical, and procedural requirement. I agree there should be that, and we already have it.

The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards has indicated that the Jackson Lee amendment is a commonsense amendment that makes clear that regulations whose benefits to public health safety exceed the cost of regulated industries are good public investments.

This amendment is a necessary amendment. The Jackson Lee amendment says if it is a good public investment, and it helps in order to clarify some of the untoward provisions of this legislation that will require an interaction with a private corporation, but never talking to the public.

Mr. Chairman, if we are for the people, they should at least be there to be inquired of: What do you think?

And finally, let us end the unfunded mandate of not passing unemployment insurance extension and not lifting the minimum wage. That is an unfunded mandate.

I would ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment because it clarifies and it puts the people first. I join with my colleague. This is a place for people. We are the ones—the people who run this government. Give them an opportunity to consult under this legislation. Support the Jackson Lee amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

My amendment is simple and straightforward.

The Jackson Lee amendment improves the bill by clarifying that the provisions of the bill do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of a regulatory action exceed its costs.

My amendment improves the bill by ensuring that regulatory actions needed to protect the public health, safety, and environment can be promulgated and implemented and not be

stymied by dilatory tactics and unnecessary delays.

That is why the Jackson Lee amendment is strongly supported by the Coalition on Sensible Safeguards, an organization comprised of more than 150 public health, scientific, consumer, environmental, labor, financial reform, and public interest groups.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 899, the “Unfunded Mandates Reform Act” (UMRA), would erect new barriers to slow down the regulatory process and would give corporations an unfair advantage in the regulatory process.

Section 5 of the bill would repeal language that excludes independent regulatory agencies from the reporting requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), with the exception of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and the Federal Open Market Committee. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for overseeing the UMRA process.

Since the independent agencies would be under the direction of OMB for purposes of UMRA compliance, this could compromise the independence of those agencies.

Section 7 of H.R. 899 would create a new point of order in the House of Representatives for legislation containing an unfunded mandate, making it more difficult to enact legislation.

Section 8 would incorporate a cost-benefit requirement from Executive Order 12866, but it would not include language from the same Executive Order directing agencies to perform these assessments “to the extent feasible.”

Section 10 would require agencies to provide impacted parties in the private sector—but not other stakeholders—with advance notice and opportunity to provide input on proposed regulations.

Section 10 also requires agencies to conduct consultations with private sector businesses “as early as possible, before the issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking.”

Expanding this consultation requirement only to the private sector gives corporations an unfair advantage over other stakeholders in the development of regulatory proposals.

During consideration of this bill by the Committee, Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY and TAMMY DUCKWORTH offered an amendment that would have evened the playing field by requiring that: “Any opportunities or rights afforded to a corporation under this section shall also be afforded to any interested individual.”

The Connolly-Duckworth amendment was rejected.

Section 11 would codify the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in reviewing agency regulations and require that if the OIRA Administrator finds that an agency did not comply with UMRA’s requirements, the Administrator must request that the agency comply before the regulation is finalized.

Section 12 would require that, “at the request of the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing or select committee of the House of Representatives or Senate, an agency shall conduct a retrospective analysis of an existing Federal regulation issued by an agency.”

This provision would require agencies to divert resources toward conducting these analyses and away from fulfilling their missions.

Mr. Chair, as the Coalition on Sensible Safeguards says of the Jackson Lee amendment:

This common-sense amendment makes clear that regulations whose benefits to the public health and safety exceed the costs to regulated industries, thereby making them good public investments, are not legislation that is wasteful or unnecessary.].

I urge all Members to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

COALITION FOR SENSIBLE SAFEGUARDS

February 26, 2014

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS), which includes more than 150 labor, environmental, public health, scientific, consumer, financial reform, and public interest groups, strongly opposes H.R. 899, the dangerous and harmful “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013.” This proposal would undermine our nation’s ability to set health, safety and environmental standards as well as new financial protections. Given that we have experienced multiple health and safety disasters in communities and workplaces across the country in recent years, it is the wrong time to thwart the progress of necessary public protections.

While CSS strongly urges members to vote no on H.R. 899, CSS encourages members to support the amendments offered below:

Amendment #1 sponsored by Congressman Cummings (MD): This amendment strikes section 5 of the bill, which would eliminate the current exemption from the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act for certain independent agencies. This crucial amendment would ensure that agencies that Congress designated to be independent of the Executive Branch remain so. Further, the amendment would ensure that the important regulations of these agencies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are not subject to this legislation’s wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.

Amendment #4 sponsored by Congresswoman Jackson Lee (TX): This amendment adds Section 14 to the bill to clarify that the requirements of UMRA as amended by this Act do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of the regulatory action exceed its costs. This common-sense amendment makes clear that regulations whose benefits to public health and safety exceed the costs to regulated industries, thereby making them good public investments, are not legislation’s wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.

Amendment #5 sponsored by Congressman Connolly (VA): This amendment ensures that other impacted entities, such as public interest organizations, are provided any opportunity for consultation afforded to the private sector under the Act. This common-sense amendment levels the playing field to allow public interest organizations the same privilege and access that the legislation only affords to the business community and ensures that the regulatory process is fair and open to all stakeholders in an equal manner.

Sincerely,
KATHERINE MCFATE,

President and CEO, Center for Effective Government, Co-chair, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards.

ROBERT WEISSMAN,
President, Public Citizen

Co-chair, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113-362 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 224, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]

AYES—185

Barber	DeGette	Jackson Lee
Barrow (GA)	Delaney	Jeffries
Bass	DeLauro	Johnson (GA)
Beatty	DeBene	Johnson, E. B.
Becerra	Deutch	Kaptur
Bera (CA)	Dingell	Keating
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Kennedy
Blumenauer	Duckworth	Kildee
Bonamici	Edwards	Kilmer
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Kind
Bralley (IA)	Engel	Kirkpatrick
Brown (FL)	Enyart	Kuster
Brownley (CA)	Eshoo	Langevin
Bustos	Farr	Larsen (WA)
Butterfield	Fattah	Larson (CT)
Capps	Foster	Lee (CA)
Capuano	Frankel (FL)	Levin
Cárdenas	Fudge	Lewis
Carney	Gabbard	Lipinski
Carson (IN)	Galleo	Loebsack
Cartwright	Garamendi	Lofgren
Castor (FL)	Garcia	Lowenthal
Castro (TX)	Grayson	Lowe
Chu	Green, Al	Lujan Grisham (NM)
Cicilline	Green, Gene	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	Lynch
Clarke (NY)	Gutiérrez	Maffei
Clay	Hahn	Maloney
Cleaver	Hanabusa	Carolyn
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Cohen	Heck (WA)	McCollum
Connolly	Higgins	McDermott
Conyers	Himes	McGovern
Cooper	Holt	McIntyre
Courtney	Honda	McNerney
Crowley	Horsford	Meeks
Cummings	Hoyer	Meng
Davis (CA)	Huffman	Michaud
Davis, Danny	Israel	
DeFazio		

Miller, George	Rangel	Takano
Moore	Richmond	Thompson (CA)
Moran	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Tierney
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Titus
Napolitano	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
Neal	Sánchez, Linda T.	Tsongas
Negrete McLeod	Sarbanes	Van Hollen
Nolan	Schakowsky	Vargas
O'Rourke	Schiff	Veasey
Pallone	Schneider	Vela
Pascrell	Schrader	Velázquez
Payne	Scott (VA)	Visclosky
Pelosi	Scott, David	Walz
Perlmutter	Serrano	Wasserman
Peters (CA)	Sewell (AL)	Schultz
Peters (MD)	Shea-Porter	Waters
Pingree (ME)	Sherman	Waxman
Pocan	Sires	Welch
Polis	Slaughter	Wilson (FL)
Price (NC)	Speler	Yarmuth
Quigley	Swalwell (CA)	
Rahall		

NOES—224

Aderholt	Granger	Nunnelee
Amash	Graves (GA)	Olson
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Owens
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Palazzo
Bachus	Griffith (VA)	Paulsen
Barletta	Grimm	Pearce
Barr	Guthrie	Perry
Barton	Hall	Peterson
Benishek	Hanna	Petri
Bentivolio	Harper	Pittenger
Bilirakis	Harris	Pitts
Blackburn	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Boustany	Hastings (WA)	Pompeo
Brady (TX)	Heck (NV)	Posey
Bridenstine	Hensarling	Price (GA)
Brooks (AL)	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Brooks (IN)	Holding	Reichert
Broun (GA)	Hudson	Renacci
Buchanan	Huelskamp	Ribble
Bucshon	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Burgess	Hunter	Rigell
Byrne	Issa	Roby
Camp	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Campbell	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Cantor	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Capito	Jones	Rogers (MI)
Carter	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Cassidy	Joyce	Rokita
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Rooney
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Coble	King (NY)	Roskam
Coffman	Kingston	Ross
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Rothfus
Collins (GA)	Kline	Royce
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	LaMalfa	Salmon
Cook	Lamborn	Sanchez, Loretta
Costa	Lance	Sanford
Cotton	Lankford	Scalise
Crawford	Latham	Schock
Crenshaw	Latta	Schweikert
Cuellar	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Culberson	Long	Sessions
Daines	Lucas	Shimkus
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
Duffy	Lummis	Simpson
Dent	Marchant	Sinema
DeSantis	Marino	Smith (MO)
DesJarlais	Massie	Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart	Matheson	Smith (NJ)
Duffy	McAllister	Smith (TX)
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy (CA)	Southerland
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Stewart
Ellmers	McClintock	Stivers
Farenthold	McHenry	Stutzman
Fincher	McKeon	Terry
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Fleischmann	McMorris	Thornberry
Fleming	Rodgers	Tiberi
Flores	Meadows	Tipton
Forbes	Meehan	Turner
Foxx	Messer	Valadao
Franks (AZ)	Mica	Wagner
Frelinghuysen	Miller (FL)	Walberg
Gardner	Miller (MI)	Walorski
Garrett	Miller, Gary	Weber (TX)
Gerlach	Mullin	Webster (FL)
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Gibson	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Gingrey (GA)	Neugebauer	Williams
Gohmert	Noem	Wilson (SC)
Goodlatte	Nugent	Wittman
Gowdy	Nunes	Wolf

Womack Yoder Young (AK)
Woodall Yoho Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (UT) Huizenga (MI) Schwartz
Black Hurt Scott, Austin
Calvert Maloney, Sean Smith (WA)
Cramer McCarthy (NY) Stockman
Fortenberry Pastor (AZ) Upton
Gosar Runyan Walden
Hinojosa Rush Westmoreland

□ 1055

Messrs. MULLIN, HUDSON, KING of New York, OLSON, RIBBLE, MCKEON, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. ELLISON, MAFFEI, and GARAMENDI changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 86, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. HURT. Mr. Chair, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 86. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 216, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 87]

AYES—194

Barber Clyburn Foster
Barrow (GA) Cohen Frankel (FL)
Bass Connolly Fudge
Beatty Conyers Gabbard
Becerra Cooper Gallego
Bera (CA) Costa Garamendi
Bishop (GA) Courtney Garcia
Bishop (NY) Crowley Gibson
Blumenauer Cuellar Grayson
Bonamici Cummings Green, Al
Brady (PA) Davis (CA) Green, Gene
Braley (IA) Davis, Danny Grijalva
Brown (FL) DeFazio Gutiérrez
Brownley (CA) DeGette Hahn
Bustos Delaney Hanabusa
Butterfield DeLauro Hastings (FL)
Capps DelBene Heck (WA)
Capuano Deutch Higgins
Cárdenas Dingell Himes
Carney Doggett Holt
Carson (IN) Doyle Honda
Cartwright Duckworth Horsford
Castor (FL) Edwards Hoyer
Castro (TX) Ellison Huffman
Chu Engel Israel
Cicilline Enyart Jackson Lee
Clark (MA) Eshoo Jeffries
Clarke (NY) Esty Johnson (GA)
Clay Farr Johnson, E. B.
Cleaver Fattah Jones

Kaptur Keating
Kelly (IL) Miller, George
Kennedy Moore
Kildee Moran
Kilmer Murphy (FL)
Kind Nadler
Kirkpatrick Napolitano
Kuster Neal
Langevin Negrete McLeod
Larsen (WA) Nolan
Larson (CT) O'Rourke
Lee (CA) Owens
Levin Pallone
Lewis Pascrell
Lipinski Payne
Loeb sack Pelosi
Lofgren Perlmutter
Lowenthal Peters (CA)
Lowey Pingree (ME)
Lujan Grisham Pocan
(NM) Polis
Lujan, Ben Ray Price (NC)
(NM) Quigley
Lynch Rahall
Maffei Rangel
Maloney, Carolyn Richmond
Maloney, Sean Roybal-Allard
Matheson Ruiz
Matsui Ruppersberger
McCollum Ryan (OH)
McDermott Sanchez, Linda
McGovern T.
McIntyre Sarbanes
McNerney Schakowsky
Meeks Schiff

NOES—216

Aderholt Franks (AZ)
Amash Frelinghuysen
Amodei Gardner
Bachmann Garrett
Bachus Gerlach
Barletta Gibbs
Barr Gingrey (GA)
Barton Gohmert
Benishek Goodlatte
Bentivolio Rodgers
Bilirakis Granger
Blackburn Graves (GA)
Boustany Graves (MO)
Brady (TX) Griffin (AR)
Bridenstine Griffith (VA)
Brooks (AL) Grimm
Brooks (IN) Guthrie
Broun (GA) Hall
Buchanan Hanna
Buchson Harper
Burgess Harris
Byrne Hartzler
Camp Hastings (WA)
Campbell Heck (NV)
Cantor Hensarling
Capito Herrera Beutler
Carter Holding
Cassidy Hudson
Chabot Huelskamp
Chaffetz Huizenga (MI)
Coble Hultgren
Coffman Hunter
Cole Hurt
Collins (GA) Issa
Collins (NY) Jenkins
Conaway Johnson (OH)
Cook Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Crenshaw Kelly (PA)
Culberson King (IA)
Daines King (NY)
Davis, Rodney Kingston
Denham Kinzinger (IL)
Dent Kline
DeSantis Labrador
DesJarlais LaMalfa
Diaz-Balart Lamborn
Duffy Lance
Duncan (SC) Lankford
Duncan (TN) Latham
Eilmlers Latta
Farenthold LoBiondo
Fincher Long
Fitzpatrick Lucas
Flitckemeyer Luetkemeyer
Fleming Lummis
Flores Marchant
Forbes Marino
Foxy Massie

Schneider Schneider
Schrader Schrader
Scott (VA) Scott (VA)
Scott, David Scott, David
Serrano Serrano
Sewell (AL) Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter Shea-Porter
Sherman Sherman
Shimkus Shimkus
Sinema Sinema
Sires Sires
Slaughter Slaughter
Speier Speier
Swalwell (CA) Swalwell (CA)
Takano Takano
Thompson (CA) Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS) Thompson (MS)
Tierney Tierney
Titus Titus
Tonko Tonko
Tsongas Tsongas
Van Hollen Van Hollen
Vargas Vargas
Veasey Veasey
Vela Vela
Velázquez Velázquez
Visclosky Visclosky
Walz Walz
Wasserman Wasserman
Schultz Schultz
Waters Waters
Waxman Waxman
Welch Welch
Wilson (FL) Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth Yarmuth

Schock Schock
Schweikert Schweikert
Sensenbrenner Sensenbrenner
Sessions Sessions
Simpson Simpson
Smith (MO) Smith (MO)
Smith (NE) Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX) Smith (TX)
Southernland Southernland
Stewart Stewart
Stutzman Stutzman

Terry Terry
Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
Thornberry Thornberry
Tiberi Tiberi
Tipton Tipton
Turner Turner
Valadao Valadao
Wagner Wagner
Walberg Walberg
Walorski Walorski
Weber (TX) Weber (TX)
Webster (FL) Webster (FL)
Wenstrup Wenstrup

Whitfield Whitfield
Williams Williams
Wilson (SC) Wilson (SC)
Wittman Wittman
Wolf Wolf
Womack Womack
Woodall Woodall
Yoder Yoder
Yoho Yoho
Young (AK) Young (AK)
Young (IN) Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (UT) McCarthy (NY) Smith (WA)
Black Pastor (AZ) Stivers
Calvert Peters (MI) Stockman
Cramer Runyan Upton
Fortenberry Rush Walden
Gosar Schwartz Westmoreland
Hinojosa Scott, Austin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1059

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON

LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 180, noes 232, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 88]

AYES—180

Bass Cuellar Gutiérrez
Beatty Cummings Hahn
Becerra Davis (CA) Hanabusa
Bera (CA) Davis, Danny Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA) DeFazio Heck (WA)
Bishop (NY) DeGette Higgins
Blumenauer Delaney Himes
Bonamici DeLauro Hinojosa
Brady (PA) DelBene Holt
Braley (IA) Deutch Honda
Brown (FL) Dingell Horsford
Brownley (CA) Doggett Hoyer
Bustos Doyle Huffman
Butterfield Duckworth Israel
Capps Edwards Jackson Lee
Capuano Ellison Jeffries
Cárdenas Engel Johnson (GA)
Carney Enyart Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN) Eshoo Kaptur
Cartwright Esty Kelly (IL)
Castor (FL) Farr Kennedy
Castro (TX) Fattah Kildee
Chu Foster Kilmer
Cicilline Frankel (FL) Kind
Clark (MA) Fudge Kirkpatrick
Clarke (NY) Gabbard Kuster
Clay Gallego Langevin
Cleaver Garamendi Larsen (WA)
Clyburn Garcia Larson (CT)
Cohen Gibson Lee (CA)
Connolly Grayson Levin
Cooper Flores Lewis
Courtney Green, Gene Lipinski
Crowley Grijalva Loeb sack

Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan

O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)

Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Valadao

Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (UT)
Black
Calvert
Cramer
Fortenberry
Gosar
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Pastor (AZ)
Runyan
Rush
Schwartz
Scott, Austin
Smith (WA)
Stockman
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1104

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. YODER).
There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. YODER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 899) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 492, he reported the bill back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. GARCIA. I am opposed.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Garcia moves to recommit the bill H.R. 899 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 14. EXCEPTION FOR REGULATORY ACTIONS AFFECTING VETERANS, SENIORS, CONSUMERS, AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS.

The amendments made by this Act shall not apply to regulatory actions if they have the effect of—

- (1) providing hiring preferences and jobs for veterans;
- (2) protecting patient safety in hospitals and nursing homes;
- (3) lowering the overall cost of health care, including out-of-pocket costs for consumers; or
- (4) protecting communities from natural disasters and helping them rebuild in the event of a natural disaster.

Mr. LANKFORD (during the reading).
Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill. This will not delay the bill. This will not kill the bill. This will not send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be able to agree that just as it is absurd to say that all regulations are good, it is absurd to say that all regulations are bad. Unfortunately, this bill does just that.

It assumes that all regulations are bad; it weakens or delays them. Even those that advance important bipartisan priorities are going to be hurt. That is why my amendment is so important. It will ensure that this bill does not create unnecessary hurdles in several important areas, including those that help veterans find jobs, keep health care safe and affordable, and rebuild communities after natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, there is probably no issue where there is more bipartisan support than in the need to support our Nation's veterans. Those who have risked and sacrificed more than anyone else deserve for us to help keep them safe: veterans, veterans like my constituent George Martinez, who found a job through the program for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, an important program overseen by the VA.

This bill will unfortunately weaken or delay regulations that help veterans like George find jobs when they leave the service. It would have delayed an important regulation that was finalized last year, a regulation that requires contractors to set goals for hiring veterans and list job openings so that veterans can apply for them.

According to estimates, this regulation could ultimately find additional employment for 200,000 veterans. With unemployment for veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan being at almost 10 percent, we should not be delaying this kind of regulation.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment would also keep the bill from creating unnecessary hurdles on regulations that protect patient safety. This bill would unnecessarily create hurdles for regulations that protect patient safety in hospitals and nursing homes, and lower out-of-pocket costs of health care.

These are especially important issues in my home State of Florida where 70,000 nursing home residents live, more than almost any other State in the country. These are our parents, they are our loved ones who should receive the best care possible in their latter years. That is why we must ensure that nursing homes remain a safe place of rest and care for our seniors and remain an affordable option for those

NOES—232

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach

Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows

Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart

who need them. That is exactly what my amendment will do.

Finally, this amendment will ensure that the bill does not create unnecessary obstacles for regulations that help protect and rebuild communities after natural disasters. In south Florida, we are all too familiar with the devastating effects of hurricanes and natural disasters when they strike. Rebuilding communities in their aftermath can take years, as my constituents in Homestead know all too well. That is why we need to move forward with my amendment. We need to have an amendment that ensures this bill does not weaken or delay regulations that facilitate the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we face so many important issues, we here in Congress need to come together and do what is right. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to ensure that we support unemployed veterans, keep health care safe and affordable, and protect our communities from natural disasters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, this bill assumes one simple thing: that regulators are not infallible, they are just people. We believe that the Nation will not fall apart if Washington doesn't have more and more growing power. We believe that this Nation became strong because the Federal Government had limited power. You see, I believe and we believe the American people aren't looking for much from us; they just want the unfunded mandates to stop. Someone in Washington decides they have a good idea and suddenly everyone has to pay for their new good idea.

It seems obvious that before a major rule is put into place, the regulators should actually have a consultation with the people that will be affected to see if there is a better way to do the same thing.

It was 3 years ago that I walked into this Chamber. Many people know I don't come from a political background. I have served in churches, where, of course, there are no politics. I can tell you that the American people do not want this city to tell them what to do. They want this city to protect their rights and leave them alone.

As a new Representative, I was surprised that the vast majority of businesses that I interacted with didn't come to me asking for something; they came and said, how can you make this stop? Thousands of small regulations are coming every day. In fact, I am sure everyone read the Federal Register today. There is a new regulation that came out today that decreases the size of an orange. You cannot be an orange in America unless the Department of Agriculture tells you that you are an orange, and there is a new regulation today defining an orange.

There are also 330 major rules that have come out in the last few years that increase and have an impact on the economy of over \$100 million each. The American people are fed up with Washington, not because we can get nothing done, but because we are already doing too much.

□ 1115

Every day, people wake up to a new regulation. They can't wait to read the Federal Register to see what happened to their business and their life last night.

The opposition to this bill seems to be a fear that it will make the government work harder. Our fear is that the government is already making the American people's work harder every single day. People are worried about how to be able to pay for things, and it is slowing down the economy.

Every mandate that is passed, the economy slows down even more. In fact, the CBO once again this year, just weeks ago, laid out their forecast for the next 10 years, that the economy is going to continue to slow down even more.

Listen, the prevailing attitude in this town that Washington knows best has to stop. It is the responsibility of the States and the Nation to carry out their own wishes. It is not the responsibility of the States and the people to carry out the wishes of Washington, DC.

A lot of people all over this Nation can make good decisions, and this perception that Washington is smarter than everyone else is absolutely not true.

I come from a place that many in this town call flyover country. It may surprise you that planes actually land in flyover country. And when you get off the plane, do you know what you find? You find smart people. People who balance their budgets, serve their neighbors, and love their kids.

They are not helpless. Right when they finally get their budget to balance or get their family back in place, Washington has a new plan for their budget.

When the President said in his State of the Union that, "The shift to a cleaner energy economy won't happen overnight, and it will require tough choices along the way," many people didn't realize that those tough choices would be on their own budgets.

In my State, electricity prices are going up. One of the electricity producers faces new compliance costs of over \$1,500 per meter—per meter—simply because of a new aesthetic air quality regulation. It is not dealing with health. It is just dealing with aesthetic air quality regulations by this administration.

When families try to figure out their paycheck and why it is not going as far anymore, they should ask the question: Why does gas cost more? Why does electricity cost more? Why does corn cost more? Why does beef cost more?

Why does health care cost more? Why are local taxes going up? And why is insurance costing more?

It is not the evil capitalists on Wall Street. It is the oceans of new regulations that are taking every spare dime from Americans' budgets because someone here in Washington thinks they know better.

Listen, whether it is a farm or whether it is on an energy platform or whether it is this Chamber that passed a bill 2 years ago straight down a party-line vote that told every American that they could not pick the health care they wanted, they had to pick the one Washington approved; they couldn't have the same doctor, they had to pick one that Washington approved; they couldn't pay what they chose to because they have to go to the hospital that Washington chose—by the way, the costs are going to go up as well because Washington put a new tax on medical devices, like a dental crown, a knee replacement, or a pacemaker, so right when they are getting hit with medical bills, they are also going to get hit with a new tax as well. What a great idea.

The problem is this government has grown and grown over decades. It is time to turn this around. Now is the moment to give the American people back what they need back, that is, freedom from the ongoing regulations.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 218, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 89]

AYES—192

Barber	Castro (FL)	Delaney
Barrow (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bass	Chu	DeBene
Beatty	Cicilline	Dingell
Becerra	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bera (CA)	Clarke (NY)	Doyle
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Duckworth
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Edwards
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Ellison
Bonamici	Cohen	Engel
Brady (PA)	Connolly	Enyart
Braley (IA)	Conyers	Eshoo
Brown (FL)	Cooper	Esty
Brownley (CA)	Costa	Farr
Bustos	Courtney	Fattah
Butterfield	Crowley	Foster
Capps	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Capuano	Cummings	Fudge
Cárdenas	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Carney	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Garamendi
Cartwright	DeGette	Garcia

Grayson Luján, Ben Ray
Green, Al (NM)
Green, Gene Lynch
Grijalva Maffei
Gutiérrez Maloney,
Hahn Carolyn
Hanabusa Maloney, Sean
Hastings (FL) Matheson
Heck (WA) Matsui
Higgins McCollum
Himes McGovern
Hinojosa McIntyre
Holt McNeerney
Honda Meeks
Horsford Meng
Hoyer Michaud
Huffman Miller, George
Israel Moore
Jackson Lee Moran
Jeffries Murphy (FL)
Johnson, E. B. Nadler
Jones Napolitano
Kaptur Neal
Keating Negrete McLeod
Kelly (IL) Nolan
Kennedy O'Rourke
Kildee Owens
Kilmer Pallone
Kind Pascrell
Kirkpatrick Payne
Kuster Pelosi
Langevin Perlmutter
Larsen (WA) Peters (CA)
Larson (CT) Peters (MI)
Lee (CA) Peterson
Levin Pingree (ME)
Lewis Pocan
Lipinski Polis
Loeb sack Price (NC)
Lofgren Quigley
Lowenthal Rahall
Lowe y Rangel
Lujan Grisham Richmond
(NM) Roybal-Allard

NOES—218

Aderholt Fincher
Amash Fitzpatrick
Amodei Fleischmann
Bachmann Fleming
Bachus Flores
Baretta Forbes
Barr Foxx
Barton Franks (AZ)
Benishek Frelinghuysen
Bentivolio Gardner
Bilirakis Garrett
Blackburn Gerlach
Boustany Gibbs
Brady (TX) Gibson
Bridenstine Gingrey (GA)
Brooks (AL) Gohmert
Brooks (IN) Goodlatte
Broun (GA) Gowdy
Buchanan Granger
Bucshon Graves (GA)
Burgess Graves (MO)
Byrne Griffin (AR)
Camp Griffith (VA)
Campbell Grimm
Cantor Guthrie
Capito Hall
Carter Hanna
Cassidy Harper
Chabot Harris
Chaffetz Hartzler
Coble Hastings (WA)
Coffman Heck (NV)
Cole Hensarling
Collins (GA) Herrera Beutler
Collins (NY) Holding
Conaway Hudson
Cook Huelskamp
Cotton Huizenga (MI)
Crawford Hultgren
Crenshaw Hunter
Culberson Hurt
Daines Issa
Davis, Rodney Jenkins
Denham Johnson (OH)
Dent Johnson, Sam
DeSantis Jordan
DesJarlais Joyce
Diaz-Balart Kelly (PA)
Duffy King (IA)
Duncan (SC) King (NY)
Duncan (TN) Kingston
Ellmers Kinzinger (IL)
Farenthold Kline

Ruiz Ruppertsberger
Ryan (OH) Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rotfus
Royce
Sherman
Sinema
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford

NOT VOTING—20
Bishop (UT)
Johnson (GA)
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
Calvert
Cramer
Pastor (AZ)
Deutch
Runyan
Rush
Fortenberry
Gosar
Schwartz

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1124

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 89 I was delayed getting to the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 176, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 90]

AYES—234

Aderholt Chaffetz
Amash Coble
Amodei Coffman
Bachmann Cole
Barber Collins (GA)
Baretta Collins (NY)
Barr Conaway
Barrow (GA) Cook
Barton Costa
Benishek Cotton
Bentivolio Crawford
Bilirakis Crenshaw
Blackburn Cuellar
Boustany Culberson
Brady (TX) Daines
Bridenstine Davis, Rodney
Brooks (AL) DeFazio
Brooks (IN) Delaney
Broun (GA) Denham
Buchanan Dent
Bucshon DeSantis
Burgess DesJarlais
Byrne Diaz-Balart
Camp Duffy
Campbell Duncan (SC)
Cantor Duncan (TN)
Capito Ellmers
Carter Farenthold
Cassidy Fincher
Chabot Fitzpatrick

Hastings (WA) McMorris
Heck (NV) Rodgers
Hensarling Meadows
Herrera Beutler Meehan
Holding Messer
Hudson Mica
Huelskamp Miller (FL)
Huizenga (MI) Miller (MI)
Hultgren Miller, Gary
Hunter Mullin
Hurt Mulvaney
Issa Murphy (FL)
Jenkins Murphy (PA)
Johnson (OH) Neugebauer
Johnson, Sam Noem
Jones Nugent
Jordan Nunes
Joyce Nunnelee
Kelly (PA) Olson
King (IA) Owens
King (NY) Palazzo
Kingston Paulsen
Kinzinger (IL) Pearce
Kline Perry
Labrador Peters (CA)
LaMalfa Peterson
Lamborn Petri
Lance Pittenger
Lankford Pitts
Latham Poe (TX)
Latta Pompeo
LoBiondo Posey
Long Price (GA)
Lucas Reed
Luetkemeyer Reichert
Lummis Renacci
Marchant Ribble
Marino Rice (SC)
Massie Roby
Matheson Roe (TN)
McAllister Rogers (AL)
McCarthy (CA) Rogers (KY)
McCaul Rogers (MI)
McClintock Rohrabacher
McHenry Rokita
McIntyre Rooney
McKeon Ros-Lehtinen
McKinley Roskam

Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Johnson (GA)
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
Pastor (AZ)
Runyan
Rush
Schwartz
Scott, Austin
Smith (WA)
Stockman
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski

NOES—176

Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNeerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Ruiz
Ruppertsberger
Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda T.	Sires	Veasey
Sarbanes	Slaughter	Vela
Schakowsky	Speier	Velázquez
Schiff	Swalwell (CA)	Visclosky
Schneider	Takano	Walz
Schrader	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Schultz
Scott, David	Tierney	Waters
Serrano	Titus	Waxman
Sewell (AL)	Tonko	Welch
Shea-Porter	Tsongas	Wilson (FL)
Sherman	Van Hollen	Yarmuth
	Vargas	

NOT VOTING—20

Bachus	Gosar	Scott, Austin
Bishop (UT)	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
Black	Pastor (AZ)	Stockman
Calvert	Rigell	Upton
Cramer	Runyan	Walden
Deutch	Rush	Westmoreland
Fortenberry	Schwartz	

□ 1131

Mr. CÁRDENAS changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 86 on the Cummings amendment on H.R. 899, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 87 on the Connolly amendment on H.R. 899, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 88 on the Jackson Lee amendment on H.R. 899, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 89 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 899, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 90 on passage of H.R. 899, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come, and I yield to my friend, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by

the close of business today. Of note, I expect one of those suspensions to be the bipartisan flood insurance bill.

In addition, the House will consider a number of bills to address the middle class squeeze brought on by the increase in home heating costs. This winter has been one of the coldest in recent memory, and people are running their heaters longer to keep their families warm. Last fall, the Energy Information Administration predicted that 90 percent of U.S. households would see higher home heating costs this year, and low-income families already spend 12 percent of their household budget on energy costs.

America does not work if middle class families are taking home less. To lower the cost of heating a home, to increase paychecks for middle class Americans, and to build an America that works, the House will consider the following bills:

H.R. 4076, the HHEATT Act, authored by Chairman BILL SHUSTER, to make it easier to transport propane to areas with shortages;

H.R. 2641, the RAPID Act, sponsored by Representative TOM MARINO, to expedite Federal permitting for energy construction projects;

H.R. 2824, Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America, authored by Representative BILL JOHNSON, to protect coal mining from excessive and unnecessary Federal regulation; and

H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, sponsored by Representative ED WHITFIELD, to protect electric utility plants from excessive and overly burdensome EPA regulation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, given all the problems Americans are facing with the rollout of ObamaCare, the House will consider the Simple Fairness Act. This bill will provide relief and fairness to individuals, just as the administration has done for business, by making the individual mandate penalty zero dollars for the remainder of the year.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for the information he has given to me.

I want to comment on one of the statements he made, with which I agree, in which, Mr. Speaker, you just told us—again, I agree—America doesn't work if middle class families are taking home less. I would urge him, consistent with that statement, in recognition of the fact that America works better when working families are making better wages, that we would hope the minimum wage could be brought to the floor.

As the gentleman I am sure knows, in 2013 dollars, the minimum wage would now be \$10.57 if it were at the same level it was over 40 years ago in 1968. The minimum wage has eroded very substantially in its purchasing power and its ability to give middle class families, as you say, and America a decent take-home pay. We believe both the minimum wage and unemployment insurance extension for the

1.8 to 2 million people who have lost that safety net is both hurting the economy and obviously hurting families. So we agree very strongly with the gentleman's statement.

Obviously, the bills he refers to he believes will also have an effect on this issue, but I would hope that you would seriously consider bringing the minimum wage and unemployment insurance to the floor. We believe—although, frankly, I don't have a precise count on your side of the aisle, which I am sure does not shock you—that both of those bills would have the votes on this floor, as the Speaker has indicated, to work its will and to pass those pieces of legislation. So I would hope the gentleman would consider that.

Secondly, Mr. Leader, we are pleased that flood insurance is moving ahead, we hope, and we want to thank you for your efforts that you have made on behalf of this. I know that Ms. WATERS from the Financial Services Committee has been working very hard on our side. We very much want to see the relief extended to those who have been confronted with these extraordinary increases in premiums which are unsustainable, particularly for middle class families, but for almost everybody; and we appreciate the work that you have done with Ms. WATERS to try to make sure that the protections that are extended are sufficient, certainly in the short term, but hopefully also in the long term, to meet both the objective of making it sustainable for families, but also, over the long term, fiscally sustainable for the Nation.

So I want to thank you for that. We look forward to considering that next week and hope that will be on the floor next week.

If the gentleman wants to comment further, I yield to him.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for his comments about the issue of flood insurance and the need to sustain the effort to return to actuarial soundness in that program, at the same time to have affordable and sustainable increases in premiums, which is important for the actuarial soundness of the program. So I appreciate that and look forward to the bipartisan effort next week on the floor with that.

As to the gentleman's comments, Mr. Speaker, about the minimum wage and unemployment insurance extension, it is interesting, if you look at the constituents that we need to focus on, those individuals who struggle to get through the month to pay the bills, those struggling at their job each week with wages that have not increased in real terms in a decade, we could do something on the floor of this House that would be as beneficial, if not more so, to the economy and would address the concerns that we have about decreasing wages, and that is we could roll back the 30-hour workweek rule under ObamaCare. If we were to do that and return it to the 40-hour workweek again—that is a 25 percent increase in wages—we could do that, and

the wage earner at minimum wage would be about \$2 off from where that wage earner would be if you followed what the gentleman is suggesting in raising the minimum wage, as the President wants, to \$10.10. But the added benefit is, as CBO has warned, you don't have to go about harming job creation prospects at the same time, which means, an increase in minimum wage, as CBO suggested, could very likely result in less jobs being created.

So we can do this without harming the prospects for job creation and help those constituents right now who have been struggling for so long. That is how we can make America work again. Let's get America back to work, more Americans working.

So as far as the gentleman's suggestions about UI, at the end of the day, what we need to do—and I think what most of our constituents who are out of work would like, is they would like a job. And what we know today is there is a mismatch in terms of the job openings and the skills that those who are unemployed have.

We passed a bill on the floor of this House called the SKILLS Act, and it is something I have spoken to the President about and I have spoken to the Vice President about. I would like to work with the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, to see if we can resolve the differences on that bill that has passed this House to get the Senate to act so we can finally get the chronically unemployed in this country back on a path to productivity and give them a hope so they can get a job again. They need the skills.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Let me say to him that I will ask my staff—and they usually do what I ask them to do—next week to sit down with your staff and to talk about the SKILLS Act. We have significant differences. It was passed on a largely partisan vote, as the gentleman knows, but I agree with him. As you know, I have an agenda that we call Make It In America, and it deals with skills, and it deals with a 21st century workforce education, and so the objective we agree upon. I will certainly look forward to working with him on the specifics to see if we can get an agreement, a consensus, so that we can pass a bill which accomplishes those objectives, because we share those objectives.

□ 1145

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, I talk about the minimum wage. The majority leader answers, Mr. Speaker, that yes, the value of wages has decreased, but if we increased the Affordable Care Act to a 40-hour criteria, and less than that, 39 hours, no health care would necessarily be available to those workers, but you would increase their salary by 25 percent. Now on that theory, Mr. Speaker, perhaps if we increased the work to 80 hours a week, we would double their

pay. Or perhaps we could triple their pay if you increased it to 120 hours a week. But, very frankly, it has eroded. The minimum wage is not worth what it was, and, very frankly, in 1969, the economy was not going bust. We weren't hemorrhaging jobs. We were doing pretty well.

Very frankly, CBO has said that some 25 million Americans, some directly and some indirectly, would be advantaged by increasing the minimum wage and paying a wage that did not leave a worker in the richest country on the face of the Earth in poverty working 40 hours a week. That is not an acceptable alternative in America, and we have raised the minimum wage periodically. We raised it last, of course, when Democrats were in charge in 2007. We raised it to \$7.25 over time, now \$7.25, but it is substantially less and it replaces 36 percent of average wage, as opposed to in 1968, replacing 54 percent of average wage.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that yes, we can take other steps that the majority leader has pointed out that I think we perhaps can reach agreement on, but that we ought to recognize that we expect people who can and are able to do so work in America, but they also expect us to pay them a wage on which they can have some degree of financial ability to support themselves, a family, and to live decently in America. So I would hope that we could do that.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, let me discuss a bill that we believe will help the economy greatly. The Chamber of Commerce believes it will help the economy greatly. Farm owners believe it will help the economy, and it is the broadest coalition that I have seen in the country on an issue in many respects: evangelicals, Roman Catholics, Jews, other faiths, all have said, 70-plus percent of America says we ought to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER came forward with some principles in my State just a few weeks ago for moving forward on comprehensive immigration reform. We were very positively impressed with those principles. We may not have agreed on every jot and tittle of the suggestions, but we thought it was a very good basis to move forward on which to have a discussion and bring comprehensive immigration reform to the floor.

As Tom Donohue, the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, said it was absolutely essential, I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that we could bring that to the floor, have a debate and have consideration of it. My view is it has the votes in the people's House to pass if it were brought to the floor. I would hope that could be done.

With that, I yield to my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to underscore and respond to that, that I don't believe there is the requisite number of votes in the House to

pass the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill. We have taken the position on our side of the aisle that we are not for that bill. The gentleman rightfully points out that the Speaker and our leadership put out some standards to provide a path for discussion about how we go about addressing a very broken immigration system.

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, we don't have a lot of trust on our side about how this administration will implement the laws we pass; nor do I think, Mr. Speaker, one can blame us given the track record of this administration in seemingly unilaterally making decisions on how to implement a health care law when it doesn't work. This is the frustration and lack of trust that has resulted from those kinds of actions.

We do need to restore the trust in our government for the people that put us here. We do need to address a very broken system, but the administration or anyone's insistence that somehow everything has to be addressed right now our way is not something that is going to sit well, especially given the fact that there is not a lot of trust given the lack of what we believe would be full and faithful execution of the laws as to what is going on with the health care law and others on the part of the administration.

So I don't in any way accept the status quo, I would say to the gentleman on immigration, but we have got to work to see a way forward that can provide a better way.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, frankly, I have heard this trust argument before. That would be an argument for not doing anything because you don't trust the administration to execute the laws and, therefore, don't pass any laws. I think that is a make-wait argument, Mr. Speaker. And, very frankly, there is a way to see who is right on this, I tell my friend, the majority leader. The majority leader says he doesn't believe that it has the votes on the floor. There is a wonderful way to test that—bring it to the floor, and we will see who is right.

The American people, over 70 percent of them, believe that we ought to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Polls on their side of the aisle and polls on our side of the aisle and independent polls largely agree: over 7 out of 10 Americans believe we ought to pass this bill. In fact, seven, or very close to 7 out of 10 of their representatives in the other body voted for comprehensive immigration reform. They had a vote. They brought it to the floor. It passed overwhelmingly. It has sat here for months, unattended, but maybe that is our alternative.

Very frankly, there have been alternatives passed out of the Judiciary Committee and out of the Homeland Security Committee by the Republicans, and they are not on the floor either, Mr. Speaker. So no immigration alternatives have been offered for a vote on this floor, the people's House, a

House in which the Speaker said when he took the gavel here, the people's will will be reflected because they would bring things to the floor. They accused us of not doing that. That was their right to do so, but now I suggest they are following a policy that they have severely criticized and said was wrong. So if they were sincere then, we would simply ask the majority leader to bring the bill to the floor and see if he is right or if I am right; to see whether we have the votes or we don't. The American people deserve that vote because they are overwhelmingly for that vote, and then they can take their own view from there as to who they agree with and who they don't agree with.

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

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 3, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING DR. ABNER
WOMACK

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Abner Womack, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri, for receiving the Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest award awarded by the American Farm Bureau.

As a farm boy with a knack for numbers, he has used his expertise to build the internationally renowned Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute that provides high-quality analysis for Congress and the USDA. This system of statistical models allows congressional Members and their staff to analyze the effects and tradeoffs of competing policies. Dr. Womack's academic integrity is evidenced in the strong academic, nonpartisan reputation that FAPRI enjoys.

However, Dr. Womack's reach far exceeds that of Capitol Hill. I want to commend him for his tireless effort to reach out to farmers across Missouri and around the world. His passion for agriculture and vast knowledge of statistical models, paired with his ability to effectively communicate complex ideas in a commonsense manner, have made him a priceless asset to all he encounters.

Again, I want to thank Dr. Womack for his lifelong efforts in supporting American agriculture, and recognize him for this achievement.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my fellow colleagues to allow an up-or-down vote on H.R. 1010, which would give at least 25 million Americans a pay raise. For many Americans, most of whom are women, who work 40 hours a week at \$7.25 an hour, they gross a mere \$290 a week. That comes out to \$15,000 per year, just barely above the Federal poverty guidelines.

In America, no one should have to work full time and raise their family in poverty. In Georgia alone, raising the minimum wage would give more than 500,000 hardworking people a raise. Most Americans support raising the minimum wage, but my Republican colleagues refuse to give it a vote. Obviously, many of them have never experienced life working at \$7.25 an hour.

The American people are calling for an economy that works for everyone—where a hard day's work earns a decent day's pay, and everyone has an opportunity to build a brighter future.

SUPPORT LOCAL ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House as an original cosponsor of H.R. 4100, the Local Organization Cooperative Agreement and Facility Maintenance Act, or the LOCAL Act.

For the past several years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has partnered with local nonprofit organizations to cooperatively manage and maintain recreational facilities at lakes and reservoirs on these Federal lands.

In my district, the Friends of Raystown Lake Group in Huntingdon County have been able to collect and retain user fees generated from the public's use of the lake, which they then reinvest to perform operations and maintenance on that site. Recently, an administrative ruling forced the Army Corps to terminate these agreements at facilities across the country. The Friends of Raystown should be commended for their volunteerism, not penalized by Washington's bureaucracy. The LOCAL Act will allow these and other agreements to remain in force.

I would encourage my colleagues to support the LOCAL Act to ensure the Army Corps can continue these cooperative agreements that are good for the community and good for taxpayers.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF
EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, these are interesting times in America. For most of us who went to law school, we were taught that for an adversarial system of justice of law to work, there has to be active participation on both sides of an issue, of a person charged with a crime, on defense, or litigation over a law itself. So Chairman GOODLATTE from just across the river in Virginia called a hearing in the Judiciary Committee this week. We had another hearing about the constitutionality, or lack thereof, of actions by this administration, and it is very alarming.

□ 1200

Professor Jonathan Turley, with whom I have disagreed on many policy issues, has a wonderful grasp of the Constitution; and he recognizes the dangers when an administration decides to pick and choose which laws will be enforced and goes further and issues executive orders, not like prior administrations that simply explain on most occasions or illuminate some law as to how they think it is to be interpreted, but to actually make law and executive orders. That is just unconscionable for somebody that took an oath to defend the Constitution.

I can't recall times that I have agreed with The LA Times before, but they had an editorial that indicates even The LA Times understands the danger of what is going on right now in this country with this administration.

We have an Attorney General who has been requested to produce documents lawfully, informally, refused to do so, been subpoenaed to produce information documents, has refused to do so unlawfully, to the point that the committee had a hearing and ultimately found the Attorney General of the United States in contempt of Congress, which came to this floor and, in a very unusual action found, the Attorney General, the highest law enforcement officer in this country, in contempt of Congress, basically in contempt of the Constitution.

This has far wider implications than most in America seem to grasp because, when the highest law enforcement officer in America refuses to comply with the law, holds himself out as being above any law, creates laws that he wants to defend—at least the administration creating laws that they want to defend or follow—and actually saying in this room—I just had the President of the United States say in this room: I am going to go around the Congress—if you don't do what I want, I am going to go around the Congress.

The ramifications for that are so staggering to anyone who has contemplated the founding of this country that it is beyond words. The Founders set up these checks and balances believing that, surely, there would be people in the judiciary—although they

saw that as the least powerful branch, though it has now become the most powerful—they saw Congress as always being willing to defend its own laws, even to the point of defunding anything in the administration that did not protect and defend the law.

They saw a President as standing up and refusing to follow things that were not the law. They felt like each branch would judiciously protect their own powers under the Constitution, and that balance would allow this Nation to go forward as the freest Nation in the history of the world.

But today, we are living in a time where all of that is in jeopardy, when one branch can act to the total disregard of another branch or other branches. We have seen that with executive orders that just completely change the law as written and completely intentionally disregards the law of the land. It is staggering.

The LA Times had an editorial on February 27 that talked about the Attorney General's posture on just picking and choosing which laws he would provide a defense for.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here as someone—as a prosecutor, as a lawyer, as a judge, as a chief justice—who at times absolutely did not like laws—particular laws—but knew if this Nation were to remain for years to come, we had to either change the law legally; or as lawyers, as officers of the court, as judges, as chief justices, we had to follow the law.

Back in the '80s, I was ordered by a State district judge to file an appeal—to represent a man on appeal after having been convicted of capital murder. I was then, as now, a very conservative person.

I went to the judge after I got the call that I was going to be appointed and begged the judge not to appoint me, that I was doing civil trial work, I wasn't doing criminal work, please don't appoint me to appeal a criminal conviction because I will have to go back to school to do a proper job of representing a man on appeal of the death penalty.

I knew if he appointed me—because I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, I would spend incredible hours to make sure I properly represented the man on appeal, even though I didn't know any more about the facts of the case than I had read in the papers. From the papers, I got the impression that he had probably gotten what he deserved.

But the judge appointed me to appeal a capital murder conviction in which the defendant was sentenced to death. I didn't want the case, didn't ask for it, begged not to have it.

But I knew that if our system was to work, I had to do everything ethically and legally I could to present my client's side of the case. As I got into it and I read the entire long, long transcript—every word of it—I realized the man had not gotten a fair trial, and unknown to the district attorney, an as-

sistant district attorney had acted inappropriately, and it caused great harm and jeopardy to the case for the defense.

I did the very best I could for my client legally and ethically, and the case was reversed at the highest criminal court in Texas.

Even when, as attorneys, we would disagree with the law—and as we have heard from this Attorney General and people in this Justice Department over and over—even when someone is absolutely convicted, clearly is a criminal, they deserve a proper defense.

So how this administration and this Attorney General and this Justice Department can justify picking and choosing which laws they will defend and which laws they will let fall without a defense is unimaginable. For people who have learned anything about our Constitution, we have to zealously represent the clients, the laws that are put before us to represent.

This administration has now repeatedly chosen not to defend some laws when the highest law enforcement in the land, we know, actually was willing to help convicted absolutely-known criminals to get pardoned, to get lighter sentences.

We bring people in who have fought—or at least one individual who fought to get a convicted murderer of a police officer—who the evidence indicated stood over him after he shot him and shot him repeatedly—a police officer—and yet, the Attorney General can justify bringing someone in; the President justified bringing someone in by saying: Oh, no, but everybody is entitled to a defense, that is how our system works.

Then when he has a constitutional obligation to produce documents to Congress and just says: I am going to ignore that requirement of the law, I don't care, and not only am I going to ignore that requirement of the law, even after the extraordinary event of having the United States House of Representatives declare the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the country to be in contempt of Congress—which is really in contempt of the Constitution—still has the nerve to come in here during the State of the Union, which is really thumbing the nose at the Constitution—at Congress—that: I will ignore the law, I won't follow the laws I don't like, I won't defend the laws I don't like; and then this week actually go out and tell State law enforcement officers—highest ranking State law enforcement officers that, in essence, if they don't like a law, then just don't defend it.

So this editorial, just in part, from the LA Times, points out that:

The six State attorneys general who have declined to defend their States' bans on same-sex marriage in court got some encouragement this week from U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. In a speech to the National Association of Attorneys General, Holder said that it was sometimes appropriate for attorneys general to abandon their usual obligation to defend the constitutionality of State laws.

This page supports same-sex marriage unreservedly. But even so, we worry that Holder's comments will embolden additional State attorneys general—Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives—to pick and choose which of their States' laws they will defend in court.

It also says further down:

Yet when attorneys general are elected, as in 43 States, the temptation will be to transmute a popular political stand into a constitutional objection.

Even if Holder is right that attorneys general should refuse to defend State laws in "exceedingly rare" circumstances, those laws ought to be defended by someone.

Further down they point out that:

They probably would react differently, however, if a future Attorney General refused to defend the constitutionality of statutes that treat attacks on gays and lesbians as hate crimes.

I would imagine this Attorney General would find that unconscionable; but once we began to ignore the law and become a Nation of men—and that is generic, including men and women, whoever is in authority—instead of a Nation of laws, then we become like the nations that so many people try to flee to come to America because there is graft, there is corruption, because the rule of law is not followed.

It is whatever the dictator, the drug group, whatever the people in power think should be the law will be the law, and it becomes an unbearable place to live.

There is a reason that fences end up being built around a country not to keep people in, as in the Soviet Union days, but because people want to come flooding in, which would overwhelm our country, overwhelm our ability to provide government services, and end the ability to be a Nation where people want to come.

□ 1215

There is a reason. It is because we have been a Nation of laws that has applied the law fairly across the board.

Clearly, because the government is composed of human beings, there will be mistakes and there will be abuses, but in abuses, even Presidents have been held to account. That keeps us being a Nation of laws. Yet, when the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in the country refuses to provide information to Congress that he lawfully is required to produce, this country is in grave jeopardy. I am pleased that even the LA Times has gotten a glimpse of the potential problems here.

In a couple of different hearings, I have asked the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in our country for the production of documents provided to the defendants, to the defendants who were convicted of supporting terrorism, making them terrorists. I have asked for the copies of the documents that were provided in discovery to convicted terrorists. I have been told there could be classification problems, and as I have pointed out, if you gave them to the terrorists, you can give them to Members of Congress.

After yet another request last June, in writing—months and months later—I finally get a response that, in essence, says, Here is a Web site where you can go look at some of these documents. We have got 500 documents that were introduced at trial, and so that should take care of it.

No, it doesn't.

The Justice Department gave terrorists thousands and thousands of pages of documents, and even in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' opinion, the Fifth Circuit, they point out that there were 9,600 or so transcripts of recorded conversations. Those were given to the people convicted of terrorism, and yet this Justice Department refuses to allow Members of Congress to see those.

The Founders had the idea that there would be oversight and that Congress would supervise what happened in the executive branch. That provided that balance of power to keep us from moving in the direction of a monarchy or of a totalitarian government. Yet, when this body finally gets around to some oversight, it is dismissed. What do we do? We vote to hold the Attorney General in contempt and then allow him to remain in contempt without consequences.

Perhaps the proper remedy, under the thinking of the Founders, is, if an Attorney General refuses to enforce the laws that Congress passes and other Presidents sign into law, then you defund the particular individuals in the Department of Justice until such time as they start doing their jobs. You don't defund the people who are out enforcing the law, protecting the country, but you defund those people who are thumbing their noses at the Constitution and at proper, legal, constitutional oversight. We haven't done that.

So the American public, the laws, and the Constitution remain at risk because people who have defended terrorists and who have worked to get even terrorists lighter sentences and pardons and things like that don't think laws duly passed by Congress, signed into law by the President and upheld by the Supreme Court are worth defending. Then don't stop there. Not only actually start telling the highest law enforcement officers in the country that they should start ignoring laws in rare cases but to ignore the laws when you don't think they are appropriate.

We also know we have a Justice Department that, in their efforts to avoid making radical Islamist terrorists think that we might not like them, started outreach programs under the prior administration. I asked the prior FBI Director: Since you say that this Muslim community is like every other community in the Nation, how are the other outreach programs going with the Baptists? The Catholics? The Jews? The Buddhists? There is no other outreach program to any other religious group, so that would seem to indicate there is something special here.

There are violent people in every religion, but as Thomas Jefferson was so shocked to find out, there is one religion that has a small component of it that believes that a sure way to paradise is to kill innocent men, women, and children because they don't believe religiously like those radicals do. That is the reason Thomas Jefferson got his own copy of the Koran that the Library of Congress still has. He wanted to see for himself. He was so well read. He couldn't believe there was a religion that had a holy book for a basis that would allow anyone to interpret it in such a way as to kill innocent men, women, and children.

There have been, to be sure, purported Christians over the ages who thought it was their duty to go about brutalizing people who were not Christians, but anyone who studies the teachings of Christ about how we are to individually act knows those would not have been Christians doing the kind of violence that they did. It is not supported by the Bible. What is supported in the Bible is that if you do evil, be afraid, because God does not give the government the sword in vain. Individually, we are not supposed to judge and be vigilantes, but there is in an orderly society a need to have a government that will punish evil and encourage good conduct.

This little experiment in a democracy, in a republic and representative form of government, is so fragile. It bothers me when I read and hear those words from Ronald Reagan that freedom is never more than one generation from being gone and, even more troubling, that a generation that loses liberty does not get it back in that same generation. I have hoped that I would find a time and place where Reagan was wrong about that, but I have not yet.

So, when we see liberties being lost, privacy rights being violated right and left by our Federal Government, all kinds of snooping on American citizens without probable cause, not only by the NSA—and certainly they have the highest cause for which they are working, which is for our protection, but yet, when our privacy is completely eroded, is our safety worth losing all of our privacy completely?

We lost a dramatic amount of our privacy when, without a single vote from the Republican side of the aisle, the Democrats in the House and Senate passed what they called the Affordable Care Act, which has become so unaffordable, because the Federal Government will get everyone's medical records.

I was a bit staggered and maybe too naive. After I had heard people speak so emotionally from the heart about the protection of privacy and what happens in the bedroom, I was a little staggered over these years to see people on the Democratic side of the aisle—my friends over here—who were so thrilled to be giving every bit of private information about their most pri-

ate body parts, about their most private activities, to the government in whole and bulk, and even said, That is not violation enough; let's do a contract with General Electric, and let them keep these records for us.

It is not like the government and private industry can't be hacked. Talk about loss of privacy. I don't really have anything to hide in any of my medical records, but it is nobody else's business. Yet, wholeheartedly, people rushed and applauded the giving of all of that most private information to the Federal Government.

This week, I have been so proud of my friend JEB HENSARLING, as chairman of Financial Services, who has been trying to rein in this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—wow, what a misnomer—that is gathering information about our credit cards, our debit card activity, our loans when these were supposed to be private between us and our lenders as long as there was proper oversight to make sure they were not violating the Constitution. Yet the Federal Government, as they are, starts getting all of our debit card and credit card information. They now have all of our medical records that they are getting. They are now watching and have the ability to check every email, to check Web sites you visit. They have the ability to examine every log of every call that you make. People who once said I was crazy for giving this example some years back may begin to realize I wasn't so crazy. The example was this:

When the Federal Government has the obligation to supervise every aspect of your health care—when you force government-run health care on the people of this Nation—and when you have that same Federal Government that can monitor every credit and debit card purchase you make and when they know where you go online and when they can go into your emails, is it so hard to believe that at some point some American citizen would not get a letter from the Federal Government, saying:

We noticed that you purchased bacon and butter at the grocery store this last weekend, and we also noticed that your cholesterol level is over 200. What were you thinking? We can't let you do something like that, so we are going to have to punish you. We are going to have to start charging you more money. We are going to have to start supervising your activity. You are going to have to start going and working out. We saw that you let your membership at the gym lapse, and you are not going anymore. We can tell by where your car goes, by following the GPS on your car, that you are not going to the gym like you used to. You need to start going back to the gym. You need to quit buying butter and bacon, and then we won't punish you financially like we are now.

□ 1230

Is that so hard to believe that that would start happening, could start happening? When you give the government this much private information, then liberty is sure to go shortly thereafter.

In quoting Benjamin Franklin, it has been written different ways over the years—some say he didn't say it—but basically, he certainly advocated that those who are willing to give up liberty for their safety deserve neither.

How much of our privacy and our liberty are the American people willing to give up just so that we can feel a little safer? Because when you do that, you will not be safe from your own government. Your own government then becomes the biggest threat to your liberty, to your freedom.

Things that brilliant colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle have said over the years about our liberty and about our privacy are really becoming an issue now, and I am not hearing my friends across the aisle that raised those important points now talking about them. And I know when you have someone in the White House that is from your own party, it is kind of tough to stand up and say, This is a mistake. This is wrong.

But it is time that friends across the aisle—Senators who are Democrats—start standing up in numbers and saying: Enough. You have usurped too much power that the Constitution gave to Congress.

Just because you don't like the fact that we take a long time and it is not pretty to see laws being made doesn't mean you get to skip the whole process. The Founders wanted gridlock. They wanted it tough to pass laws. They didn't want us meeting year round like we do. I am sure if the Founders were around today, they would be appalled that we meet as much as we do. And when some people back in east Texas say: Gee, why aren't you in Washington? I'm saying: You're safer when we're here because it means we're not passing another law that takes your liberty away.

The Founders wanted some gridlock. They didn't want it too easy to pass laws. Because they knew when that happened, every little emotional issue that came up would cause Congress to come in and pass something even though the moment was fleeting and we should not be doing things quickly and emotionally.

Thomas Jefferson was not part of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. He was amazed at how good the document was. But he is reported to have indicated that if he could change one thing, he would make it a requirement that before we could pass a law, it had to be on file for a year to make sure people have plenty of time to discuss it.

We see how good an idea that would be if we didn't just run in here and do things out of emotion, and we would never, ever pass another bill so we could find out what was in it. My party

has not done anything as blatant as ramming through bills. My copy of ObamaCare was right around 2,500 pages. But we have had some bills that we have not been given time to read and to properly go through.

We were going to take up a flood insurance bill yesterday, and I am grateful that it got moved off because we haven't had enough time to know what the bill has actually got in it word for word. Summaries are not enough, on many occasions. Sometimes if it is not a big deal, a summary may do it, but somebody besides some staffer needs to be looking at every word.

That is one of the benefits of going through what we call regular order. The subcommittee gets to have a markup where they discuss every part of the bill, and anyone can offer an amendment to any part of the bill. And then it goes to the full committee, and anyone at the markup can offer an amendment to any part of the bill, and it gets debate and discussion. That is a good process.

I believe that when we took the majority, we would do even better than we have. We have done a lot better than the 4 years from January of 2007 to when we got the gavel back in January of 2011. I was appalled at the completely closed rules and how it was just staggering. We had no input. Nearly half of the country basically had no representation at all on all of the important bills because they just rammed them through without any input from Republicans—who represented Democrats and Republicans. They didn't get represented in those districts.

It is important, no matter who is in charge, that if it is really a critical issue that needs immediate laws passed, changes made, that we fully vet every law that we pass.

We had an Over-Criminalization hearing today. One of the huge mistakes—and it has been a very bipartisan mistake—is that over all these years, when Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle want to show how strongly we feel about something and how tough we are, we slap a prison sentence on things, and one of the greatest injustices that Congress has done is to pass laws that say any violations of the regulations under this law will carry a term of imprisonment.

In our hearing today, there was an estimate that there are probably 300,000 regulations, the violation of which carries a prison sentence. Congress has never seen them, never debated them, and knows nothing about them.

We have heard testimony from people who have been sent to prison who did some act and had no idea there was a law against what they did. They did time in prison as a result.

There was a man from Houston who was doing business during retirement by raising orchids. He ordered some orchids from South America. They were sent to him, but the proper forms were not filled out by the people that sent

them to him, and under the law, any violation of those postal regulations requires time in prison.

So what happened? He was arrested in his home in Houston. And since the law gives choice of venue and it had been mailed through Miami, they took him to Miami, where he didn't even know anybody, didn't have the money for bail, and ends up doing 18 months in prison, during which time he had a stroke. He couldn't testify. His wife had to.

There was a poor guy from Washington State that was trying to create a better battery. He had every chemical properly stored. One day, driving home, the EPA SWAT team had black Suburbans come up behind him, the side, in front, and forced him off the road, yanked him out of his car, threw him to the ground, handcuffed him, threw him in jail, and then drug him to Alaska.

His heinous crime was that when he mailed a chemical to Alaska, legally, properly, he didn't know that it was not enough to check the box that it had to go by ground. It couldn't go by air. He didn't know that you needed a little sticker that had a picture of an airplane with a red line through it. That sticker with the plane with the red line through it had to be on there. And since he didn't do that, that caused him to deserve to be run off the road by the EPA SWAT team, thrown to the ground, handcuffed, hauled up to Alaska, and put in prison.

When he got acquitted of that, the Justice Department wasn't happy with it, so they looked around and realized when they ransacked his home he had every chemical properly stored, but there was a law that says if you ever abandon these certain chemicals for over a certain number of days, then you committed a Federal felony. And even though it was the Federal Government that forced him to abandon those, and even though they were properly stored, he was in jail in Alaska and away from the chemicals beyond the time that the law allowed, so he went to prison for abandoning chemicals because the government drug him away from them.

These are the kind of laws that are out there. We ought to pass a law in this body that says no criminal penalty may attach to a violation of any regulation unless this Congress has passed a specific law putting a criminal penalty on that specific regulation. We should not be able to leave it to bureaucrats to decide what becomes an offense punishable by imprisonment.

So when you take the violations of privacy that have now been passed into law—all of our medical records, now our credit card and debit card records, our emails, all of our phone logs all being usurped and grabbed by the Federal Government—and couple that with abuses that we have seen over the years by the Federal Government of people's rights under color of law, and understanding that when this Federal

Government violates your rights, your privacy, your freedoms, you have nowhere else to go and there is no appeal to anyone else, it is time this body and the Senate took action to make sure the Justice Department follows the law and doesn't just pick and choose. And also that we make sure the White House doesn't just make up law out of whole cloth and decide which laws they liked and which ones they didn't. There are oaths involved here, and there should be consequences for not following them.

Then, we need to investigate further these executive departments who think they are above the law. And when Members of Congress duly request documents that were provided to people convicted as terrorists and we are told that terrorists can have them but you, Members of Congress, cannot, then it is time to defund people that will not abide by the law and will not participate in proper oversight.

It is also time we had a select committee that properly investigated Benghazi. It is time we had a special prosecutor, not some big donor to the President, to investigate this horrendous scandal in the IRS that not only has smidgions of evidence, it has overwhelming evidence of people's rights being violated. It is time that we started making sure as a Congress that people who enforce the law actually enforce the law.

We have seen the desire by this administration to embrace Islam as closely as possible. And I know the attitude is that if we bring people close from Islam into the administration, that will help us get across that we mean no ill will. The trouble has been we have brought foxes into the henhouse to give advice to the chickens.

We have a report from the last couple of weeks. The Clarion Project had been making Freedom of Information Act requests. They finally got some documentation that shows—and this article is from the Clarion Project. The Clarion Project investigation has discovered a jihadist enclave in Texas where a deadly shooting took place in 2002.

□ 1245

Declassified FBI documents obtained by Clarion confirmed the find, and show the U.S. Government's concern about its links to terrorism. The investigation was completed with the help of Act for America Houston.

The enclave belongs to the network of Muslims of the Americas, a radical group linked to a Pakistani militant group called Jamaat ul-Fuqra. Its members are devoted followers of Sheikh Ali Mubarak Gilani, an extremist cleric in Pakistan.

The organization says it has a network of 22 villages around the U.S., with Islamberg as its main headquarters in New York. The Clarion Project obtained secret MOA, Muslim of America, footage showing female members receiving paramilitary training at Islamberg. It was featured on the Kelly File of FOX News Channel in October. A second MOA tape released by Clarion shows its spokesman declaring the U.S. to be a Muslim-majority country.

A 2007 FBI record states that MOA, Muslim of America, members have been involved in

at least 10 murders, one disappearance, three firebombings, one attempted firebombing, two explosive bombings, and one attempted bombing.

It states:
The documented propensity for violence by this organization supports the belief the leadership of the MOA extols membership to pursue a policy of jihad or holy war against individuals or groups it considers enemies of Islam, which includes the U.S. Government. Members of the MOA are encouraged to travel to Pakistan to receive religious and military/terrorist training from Sheikh Gilani.

The document also says that "The MOA is now an autonomous organization which possesses an infrastructure capable of planning and mounting terrorist campaigns overseas."

Other FBI reports describe the MOA in similar ways with a 2003 file stating: "Investigation of the Muslims of the Americas is based on specific and articulate facts given justification to believe they are engaged in international terrorism."

MOA members believe the holiest Islamic site in the country is located at the Islamville commune in South Carolina. Other MOA entities include the International Quranic Open University, United Muslim Christian Forum, Islamic Post, Muslim Veterans of America, and American Muslim Medical Relief Team.

On further down it says:

The MOA referred to its Texas commune as Mahmoudberg in on-line instructions for a parade in New York in 2010. A posting on an Islamic message board in 2005 advertised a speaking engagement in Houston by someone from Mahmoudberg.

According to the reports, the commune is 7 to 10 acres large, is in an "extremely wooded area" and two or three trailer homes moved there in December of 2001. However, ACT members visited the area as part of Clarion's project or investigation and interviewed one nearby local who confidently said it is closer to 25 acres in size and spoke of a presence dating back to the late 1980s.

Further down, the FBI reported in 2007 that:

One commune resident used to be a leader at the MOA commune in Badger, California. That site was called Baladullah.

In March 2001, one of the Baladullah members was arrested for transporting guns between New York and South Carolina. Another was charged with murdering a police deputy that caught him breaking and entering a home.

Interviewed residents all agreed that MOA members are private, yet, when the ACT members were spotted in the area, they were immediately and repeatedly approached. At one point a commune resident gave them a final warning to leave, despite the fact they weren't even trespassing or harassing MOA MEMBERS.

"It was definitely very threatening and menacing," an ACT member told me.

Multiple sources confirmed that one resident of the commune is a police officer. According to a nearby neighbor, one of the MOA members used to drive trucks for the U.S. Army in Kuwait.

Further down it says:

"Police were denied"—this was after a shooting in 2002 out at the site—"police were denied access to the trailer homes and were not allowed to directly interview the women who covered their faces in their presence. Communication with the women had to be done by passing notes through a male intermediary."

Anyway, this was the subject of an email from one of my college friends,

and one of my other college friends sent an email in response saying, this could not possibly be true because the mainstream media would have been all over this if this were really true.

Well, the report of these 22 villages is true, and the mainstream media has not, does not, probably will not cover it because the administration doesn't want to make anyone uncomfortable who might be radical Islamists.

Another article from FOX News Insider, February 20, talked about a 2007 FBI record stated that MOA Members have been involved in at least 10 murders. Talked about these things.

Other FBI reports describe MOA in similar ways, with the 2003 file stating, based on the facts, this appears to be factual information. It was obtained from FBI records. It seems to be consistent with the prior administration.

Though they brought Muslims in to give advice on dealing with radical Islam, they pursued terrorists, like in the Holy Land Foundation trial, there were around 200 or so named co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation trial.

The goal, as one of the prosecutors told me, was to get those convictions, if they could, and they knew it would be the most important biggest terrorist convictions in American judicial history, and if they got those, then they would go forward and start prosecuting others of the named coconspirators who were not indicted but were named.

We know there is plenty of evidence out there regarding coconspirators because there were some coconspirators that filed a motion with the Court to have their names struck from the pleadings. The Federal District Court that examined the evidence in Dallas said, no, there is plenty of evidence here to support that CAIR, Council of American Islamic Relations, ISNA, Islamic Society North America, are large front groups for Muslim Brotherhood.

Went up to the Fifth Circuit and the Fifth Circuit confirmed that there was plenty of evidence to support their names being part of it.

Yet, this administration continues to coddle and get information and instruction from CAIR, ISNA. The president of ISNA, Imam Magid, continues to be a highly praised adviser to this administration.

So, when people across the country say this couldn't possibly be true because the mainstream media would have been all over it, I can't believe our Federal Government will allow this kind of thing to go on, well, the reason it has is because, even though FBI reports continued to say over the years that these appear to be violent and associated with violent activities, the State Department, under this administration, continues to refuse to list the Muslims of the Americas as a terrorist organization, which means they get to continue to build villages, to train in paramilitary fashion around the country, from Texas, South Carolina, New York, California, across the country,

until such time as this administration gets serious about what is going on.

Had the information from an article this week, this article from National Review Online, "Convicted Terrorist Worked As an ObamaCare Navigator in Illinois." It shouldn't be a surprise this kind of thing has happened because we found out that these so-called navigators, under ObamaCare, what might be more appropriately entitled the Unaffordable Care Act, these navigators are being allowed to gather people's most personal and private identification information, but they are not being vetted.

We have known from the beginning, when the law kicked in, that the navigators were not vetted for prior criminal activity. So we shouldn't be surprised that there was a convicted terrorist that worked as an ObamaCare navigator in Illinois.

Then we have people, enrollees, finding it impossible to cancel their plans. More than 6 weeks later, Weekly Standard reports, after spending 50 to 60 hours on the phone, this man's policy is still not canceled. So much for freedom when it comes to health care in this country under ObamaCare.

Another report published by foxnews.com: "ObamaCare may increase premiums for 11 million workers."

Anyway, it should be clear that, even though we heard a staggering statement by the Democrat Majority Leader in the Senate that people who were reporting the horror stories about ObamaCare, pointing out how the Affordable Care Act really isn't, it was devastating, that these were lies, they were not true.

Well, proper investigation reveals they are true. There may be some that have made stories up. When we get stories, we try to look into, are these really legitimate, but what we find is most of them are easily documented and easily legitimate.

ObamaCare is doing massive damage across the country to people's employment, to their health insurance, to their ability to see the doctor that they want and, in some cases, the doctor that has been keeping them alive.

Another report: "ObamaCare may increase premiums for 11 million workers." Well, I know it has increased them a lot. I can't afford the new policy that would be required. I liked my old one. I wasn't crazy about it. Aetna had some problems we never got worked out. But still, I had more freedom of choice before.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, when the Federal Government has become so big and so intrusive that it gathers everyone's phone logs in the United States, can check into any phone calls made by anyone in the country any time, when the Federal Government gathers everyone's most personal and private medical information, when the Federal Government gathers people's debit and credit card purchases to protect them, when the

Federal Government can use drones to monitor, can monitor email activity, Web sites visited, and then that same government can say we are not going to follow these laws if we don't like them, don't think they are proper, and we are going to change the law over here because Congress didn't, and we prefer to have a law that says this so we will follow that, then it is no wonder that a constitutional professor like Jonathan Turley, liberal as he is, would express dire concerns about how long we can maintain this country.

We owe the American people an obligation to proper oversight, force them to follow the law.

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

□ 1300

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Career and Technical Education Month; and let me say how proud I am to work alongside my colleague, Congressman G.T. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, my good friend and fellow cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus.

CTE is an investment in the future of our economy, our workforce, and our country. From skills training in high schools to community colleges and professional programs, CTE plays a key role for workers at every age.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2014, which passed in January, increased authorization amounts for Perkins by \$53 million for FY 2014.

Now, that is a sharp contrast in terms of the cuts that had taken place in CTE and Perkins since 2010; so with that, I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to fully fund Perkins in the upcoming fiscal year and to make important investments in career training.

Now, all too often, Mr. Speaker, I hear from Rhode Island employers that they have job openings right now, but are unable to find local skilled workers with the expertise necessary to fill the position. Closing the skills gap is an important step to making sure that workers fit the needs of expanding industries.

With that, I look forward to continuing my partnership with Congressman G.T. THOMPSON; and I urge all of my congressional colleagues to join the CTE Caucus; and I ask them to fully support funding Perkins in FY15.

UKRAINE AND IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the

gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good time to reflect on a couple of things. One is certainly Iran. The other is certainly Ukraine.

I think that the American people obviously have a very important stake in what is going on in both countries. In Ukraine, in Kiev, we see people marching for freedom, demanding the kinds of freedoms that we, in the United States, are used to, the freedoms that we hold so dear in our country; and we saw the people initially being countered by brutal police attacks on them.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, the right prevailed, and the people in the streets won, and they clearly said that they don't want to have Russian domination; but, instead, they want to look toward the West, rather than look East.

The European Union has been negotiating with Ukraine for some time, and their president, now deposed, said that he would rather work with Russia into the Russian Customs Union, which is sort of, in my opinion, a rekindling of the old Soviet Union. That angered many people in Ukraine, and they took to the streets.

I hope that the European Union continues to make overtures to Ukraine. I think now is a very, very critical moment, in that the United States has a role to play with our European allies, to try to tell the people of Ukraine that we would like them to look Westward and that, in looking Westward, there will be opportunities for their country.

I am concerned that if there are too many stringent rules and regulations put up before a country can affiliate with the EU—and at the same time, Putin is saying here are these billions and billions of dollars, which makes it seem like it is a lot easier to go with Putin.

This is one of those rare visceral moments where I think action by the United States and our allies in the European Union will make the difference for generations to come; and I would hope that we would deal with Ukraine in a benevolent manner, so that they would be able to say: yes, we want to look Westward, and it is going to help our economy, it is going to help our people.

There are serious problems in Ukraine. Their economy is in shambles. And, of course, there has been a total lack of freedom and democracy, and the people of Ukraine demand no less.

I think that Secretary Kerry was absolutely right and the President was absolutely right in telling Russian President Putin that he had better think twice before he considers any kind of military intervention in Ukraine.

That is not something that can be or should be tolerated, and Russia must understand that it cannot be business

as usual, that if they make any military moves into Ukraine, it is going to cost them a great deal in their relationships with the United States and with our European allies in the European Union.

It can't be business as usual—which leads me to Iran. We are in very delicate negotiations with Iran right now. The one thing that everybody in the P5+1 agrees on is that, at the end of the day, Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.

I have been very critical of the Iranian regime through the years and continue to be so. What irks me especially is that, while they are negotiating with us, they are continuing to wreak havoc in all different parts of the world. Iran remains the leading supporter of terrorism throughout the world.

In fact, if we look just next door into Syria—and we know the Syrian civil war is a real mess. We have jihadists pouring into that country, even more so than they poured into Iraq at the height of the Iraq war. We have all kinds of foreign fighters.

Assad was on the verge of being kicked out of power by his own people. He was losing the civil war. We had the Free Syrian Army, who are the people who really are for democracy in Syria, and Assad was losing that war.

Then what happened, Mr. Speaker, Iran unleashed its proxy—its terrorist proxy—Hezbollah into Syria; and Hezbollah entered the war in Syria on the side of Assad; and that turned the war, unfortunately, to Assad's favor.

So now, we are in a position where Assad doesn't want to negotiate, doesn't want to sue for peace, certainly doesn't want to negotiate his own exit from power in Syria, which we all thought was imminent just a few months ago; and he feels he has the upper hand because his ally, Iran, has changed the course of the war in there by unleashing their proxy, Hezbollah, a terrorist group, to fight on the side of Assad.

So Assad has essentially become an Iranian puppet in his own country, and that is Iran continuing to do all kinds of mischief while they are negotiating with us, ostensibly, so that they would not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon at the end of the day.

We know that the Israelis have taken matters into their own hands, and when they see weapons are being transferred to Hezbollah, they will do what they need to do to protect their own security.

So I think—the way Putin must understand that he cannot have it both ways, I think that the Iranians need to understand that as well. Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. They are a theocracy, and I think that we all believe that their having nuclear weapons would cause a proliferation of nuclear weapons all throughout the area, the Middle East.

Certainly, if Iran were to have a nuclear weapon—and that must not happen—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey,

United Arab Emirates, so many other countries would feel the need as well to get nuclear weapons; and we would start a chain of events that—who knows how it would end? So I believe that we have to be very, very crystal-clear.

I hope that these negotiations of the P5+1 with Iran bear fruit, but I think Iran must understand that we are not backing off, we are not going back, that nothing short of their not being able to produce a nuclear weapon is acceptable; and Iran must dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

That is not something that just the United States wants. That is something that the negotiations are really and truly all about.

I have said before that it troubles me that, while we are negotiating with Iran, Iran continues to enrich uranium. It would seem to me that if Iran had good intentions, it would at least understand that if the purpose of the negotiations is that, at the end of it, Iran would not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon, then it didn't seem so great for me to say to Iran, while we are negotiating, while we are talking, and while we are talking about you not having a nuclear weapon, you need to stop enriching while the talks are going on.

Now, Iran refused to do that because they wanted a loosening even further of sanctions if they were to stop enriching, and to me, it shows a malevolent intent on the part of Iran.

So I just think that, in our negotiations, we have to be resolute, and we have to be clear that, at the end of the day, Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. At the end of the day, Iran must dismantle its program, and at the end of the day, we have to make sure that there is no light between us in terms of the P5+1 and that we are all demanding the same thing from Iran.

I think that we are united on this. I believe that everyone understands that, for Iran to have a nuclear weapon, it is totally and absolutely unacceptable.

The United States has many interests in the Middle East; and I think it is very important that we work closely together with our partners—Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, and others who also believe very strongly that Iran must never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, as these negotiations are going on, that we set these parameters and that Iran must understand that it is unacceptable for them to have a nuclear weapon.

We may have negotiations. They may have a new president. He may be a little softer than the previous president; but let's remember, he was allowed to run in the Iranian elections, and that means that, as moderate as some people would like to believe he might be, six hard-liners were allowed to run.

He may be the most moderate of all the hard-liners, but he is hardly a moderate. All the moderates were disallowed to run for office, and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei clearly calls the shots.

So everything is very delicate, and we hope and pray that these negotiations work well. I support the negotiations. I support the administration. But the bottom line, again, is that Iran must never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.

I see that our minority whip is here, and I would like to invite him to join me.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New York, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his taking the time here to discuss two critical problems that confront us, first of all, the crisis that is ongoing in Ukraine and the negotiations that are currently underway with Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, mindful of the words of President Kennedy, who urged us never to negotiate out of fear, but never to fear to negotiate. While rooted deeply in the cold war's tense climate, where nuclear war loomed over us all like a Sword of Damocles, his admonition is as relevant today as it was then.

Today, we face a starkly different world, a world in which the chief threat to democracy, freedom, and prosperity is not a rival state superpower, but a complex and dangerous nexus of terrorism, instability, and autocracy.

□ 1315

America has not shied away from the challenges this new reality presents. We have taken the fight once against terrorism to al Qaeda and its allies wherever they hide, and we have continued to promote peace, democracy, and individual freedom. And together with our allies in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, we have worked carefully and with determination to confront one of the most dangerous threats to global security and stability in our day: the prospects of a nuclear-armed Iran.

The extremist regime in Tehran is at the heart of the instability that is undermining America's interests across the region. Those interests are the safety of our troops stationed in the region, regional stability and prosperity, the prevention of an arms race that could spiral out of control, ensuring that weapons of mass destruction do not end up in terrorists' hands, the protection of trade routes and resources that fuel economies across the world, and safeguarding our ally, Israel.

Iran continues to be the leading state sponsor of terrorism directed against America and our allies, supporting

Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. As Syria's civil war has grown more deadly, Iran remains a primary backer of Syria's dictator, Hafez al-Assad, who has gassed his own people and continues to target civilians.

Secretary Kerry said just last week that Iran, along with Russia, has actively been working to subvert the negotiations aimed at ending the bloodshed in Syria and moving the country toward a peaceful transition of power. And Iran's leaders continue to vilify Israel and its people, calling for the annihilation of the Jewish state, something Israel, America, and the world will never tolerate.

Let it be absolutely clear, Mr. Speaker: the United States will always stand by Israel. And let it be even clearer to Iran and to the world: America and its allies will never accept a nuclear-armed Iran. A nuclear weapon would give Iran the ability to carry out its threats against Israel. It would destabilize the Middle East, and it would put American troops and our European allies at risk of catastrophic attack. That is why, Mr. Speaker, President Obama and Congress have worked together to enact the toughest sanctions regime in history and bring our allies together to enforce those sanctions.

The employment of sanctions to compel Iran's compliance with international norms has been a bipartisan goal going back several Congresses and several administrations, Republican and Democratic. That is because America's policy with regard to Iran, as President Obama has forcefully and repeatedly emphasized, is not containment but prevention. We have made it clear to Ayatollah Khamenei—and those who conspire with him to spread terror and use it as an instrument of statecraft—that we will use every necessary asset at our disposal to deny Iran a nuclear weapon.

While the military option remains on the table—as President Obama and Secretary Kerry have made it absolutely clear—we now have an opportunity to achieve our goals without resorting to the force of arms. That is the most desirable alternative. It is our duty and obligation to seize that opportunity.

America is great, Mr. Speaker, not only because of our military might, but because of our moral might, our unwavering commitment to the power of human freedom and dignity that overcame communism and will overcome the terror and tyranny facing the world today.

Kennedy was right, Mr. Speaker. We must never negotiate out of fear. And we are not. But neither should we fear to negotiate. And we are. And our objective is clear. The Iranian regime did not resume negotiations last year because it somehow had a change of heart. Iran altered its approach because the sanctions passed by Congress, enforced by the administration, and supported by our allies are having a profound effect on the Iranian econ-

omy, and, of course, because the Iranian people, in electing President Rouhani, signaled a desire to stop the confrontation with the West, which was undermining their economic well-being.

The Joint Plan of Action that was signed in November of last year is a result of those sanctions and that election. But the authors of the policies pursued by Iran over the last four decades, the mullahs, remain. Iran agreed to the Joint Plan of Action not because it wanted to give up its nuclear ambitions, as they have said, but because it concluded that its national interests were better served by temporarily halting its progress towards a nuclear weapons capability in return for sanctions relief.

But that interim agreement is only a first step. It makes important progress, but it does not provide the comprehensive, long-term assurance we need that Iran has abandoned and will not again pursue its goal of a nuclear weapon. Only a comprehensive, verifiable agreement that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon will meet our and our allies' international security objectives.

Given Iran's history of deception and denial, any agreement must include reliable, independent, intrusive, and unfettered verification that Iran is abiding by its commitments and that such a verification regime remains permanently in place. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan's admonition "to verify" is doubly essential in light of there being no basis "to trust" and that the consequences of breach are too catastrophic.

Among the commitments Iran must meet has to be the end of its pursuit of nuclear weapons and compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency's robust and effective certification activities.

Mr. Speaker, U.N. Security Resolution 1737 states:

Iran shall without further delay suspend the following proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities: all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA; and work on all heavy water-related projects, including the construction of a research reactor moderated by heavy water, to be verified by the IAEA.

This is the international community, acting through the United Nations, speaking, not only ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, the world has a responsibility to ensure that these goals are attained. But let there never be any doubt that should diplomacy fail—and all of us hope that will not be the case, but if it does—our military is, as Secretary Kerry said last week, "ready and prepared to do what it would have to do."

When Iran's leaders issue threats, we ought to remember the lessons of the 20th century, when the threats of tyrants and terrorists were neither effectively responded to nor heeded. History teaches us that the only way to change

the behavior of regimes that threaten regional or global peace and stability is to stand up to them and hold them accountable. That is exactly what the United States and our allies are now doing.

In my view, Iran came to the negotiating table and signed the Joint Plan of Action in the hope that it might gain extended sanctions relief without having to give up the path to a nuclear weapon fully, irrevocably, and verifiably. It is past time that we make it clear to the Iranians that the only path to regaining its economic footings is to comply fully with the Joint Plan of Action and quickly conclude a long-term, comprehensive agreement which assures compliance with U.N. Security Council requirements and elimination of a nuclear-arms capability. Until that objective, Mr. Speaker, is met, there must be no doubt that all relevant sanctions will remain in effect and be fully enforced.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the administration, particularly the President, Secretary Kerry, and my dear friend, Assistant Secretary of State, Wendy Sherman. I commend them for the steps they have taken to enforce these sanctions and penalize those who seek to violate them. It ought to be clear to nations and companies around the world that Iran is not open for business.

There must also be no doubt that if Iran violates its current commitments or fails to reach an acceptable final agreement, the temporary sanctions relief will be canceled, all sanctions will be restored, and the Congress will act to put additional sanctions in place.

Iran will either comply with U.N. Security Council and IAEA determinations and foreclose any pathway to a nuclear weapon, or it will face economic decline and increasingly painful consequences.

That is not our objective for Iran or for the Iranian people. The United States does not seek war. But we will not take any option off the table to prevent Iran from acquiring the most dangerous implements of war.

While I remain skeptical, I support the administration's efforts to achieve a diplomatic resolution to this threat to our national security and to global security.

Mr. Speaker, these talks are a test—a critical test. But they are also an opportunity for Iran, for the P5+1 nations, and for all the world to seek a peaceful resolution of this critical situation that confronts the international community. Until now, Iran has failed every test and has refused to negotiate in good faith, ignoring the will of the international community—and I would add, the best interests of the Iranian people.

We must see whether this time the pressure of sanctions means that Iran is serious about reaching an agreement to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure permanently and with ongoing verification, abandoning its sponsorship of

international terrorism, respects the rights of its citizens, and determines to be a positive participant in the community of nations—or, on the other hand, if it continues to follow the path of international outlier: fomenting instability and terror in its regions and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian people are the inheritors of a great history and culture. They have given much to the world, including a long tradition of art, culture, and innovations in math and science. They are people for whom we rightfully have great respect. But we cannot, must not, and will not allow their leaders to continue to put the world at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I support President Obama and his administration's effort to resolve this dangerous confrontation through the ongoing negotiations. As I have said, we pray for their success. The fruits of that success will be sanctions relief for Iran and its people. If it continues, however, its path of delay and deception and continues to sow unrest and tyrannies throughout the Middle East, Iran will only exacerbate its economic isolation.

Mr. Speaker, I support the administration's conviction that the failure to achieve the expressed objectives of the P5+1 is not an option. Our finest hours as a country and as a democracy have always been when the free and democratic nations of the world came together with courage and resolve to protect and preserve international security and freedom.

□ 1330

And our greatest strength has always been our willingness to negotiate—in this case with a determination to attain an agreement that is fair, but with a conviction that it must assure—it must assure—that Iran does not attain a nuclear weapons capability now or in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the time is short. The consequences are profound, and success is our only option.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UPTON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. WESTMORELAND (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 3, 2014, at noon 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:

4850. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Treatment of Certain Collateralized Debt Obligations Backed Primarily by Trust Preferred Securities With Regard to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3038-AE13) received February 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4851. A letter from the Director, Department of Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anti-Money Laundering Program and Suspicious Activity Report Filing Requirements for Housing Government Sponsored Enterprises (RIN: 1506-AB14) received February 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4852. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Extension of Exemptions for Security-Based Swaps [Release Nos.: 33-9545; 34-71482; File No. S7-26-11] (RIN: 3235-AL17) received February 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4853. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Compliance Date for the Dehumidifier Test Procedure [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-TP-0044] (RIN: 1904-AD06) received February 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4854. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation and Technical Amendments to Certain Health Coverage Requirements Under the Affordable Care Act [CMS-9952-F] (RIN: 0938-AR77) received February 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4855. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual report on National HIV Testing Goals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4856. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Four Synthetic Cannabinoids Into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-385] received February 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4857. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Introduction — Part 2, Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: Light-Water Small Modular Reactor Edition [NRC-2012-0268] received February 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4858. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Policy Statement; revision [NRC-2010-0292] received February 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4859. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, United States

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — D-mannose; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0736; FRL-9905-44] received February 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4860. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0235; FRL-9905-56] received February 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4861. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Nonroad Technical Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0102; FRL-9905-35-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR48; 2127-AL31) received February 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4862. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4863. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4864. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Maximum Civil Money Penalty Amounts; Civil Money Penalty Complaints [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0113] received February 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4865. A letter from the Acting Assistant Chief Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Emergency Relief Program [Docket No.: FTA-2013-0004] (RIN: 2132-AB13) received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4866. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CENTRAIR Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0018; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-049-AD] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4867. A letter from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Governing United States Savings Bonds, Series EE and HH; Regulations Governing Definitive United States Savings Bonds, Series I; Regulations Governing Securities Held in TreasuryDirect received February 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4868. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation and Technical Amendments to Certain Health Coverage Requirements Under the Affordable Care Act [T.D. 9656] (RIN: 1545-BL50) received February 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); 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. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2824. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-364). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3826. A bill to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-365). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 163. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-366). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 931. A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Silertz Tribe in the State of Oregon; with an amendment (Rept. 113-367). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2095. A bill to prohibit an increase in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management until a centralized database of all lands identified as suitable for disposal by Resource Management Plans for lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau is easily accessible to the public on a website of the Bureau; with an amendment (Rept. 113-368). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3492. A bill to provide for the use of hand-propelled vessels in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-369). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2259. A bill to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws and to preserve existing uses; with an amendment (Rept. 113-370). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2126. A bill to facilitate better alignment, cooperation, and best practices between commercial real estate landlords and tenants regarding energy efficiency in buildings, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-371). 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. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 4118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to delay the implementation of the penalty for failure to comply with the individual health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 4119. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4120. A bill to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4121. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 4122. A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 4123. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 4124. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to ensure that juveniles adjudicated in Federal delinquency proceedings are not subject to solitary confinement while committed to juvenile facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BERA of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4125. A bill to authorize the construction of the expansion of Shasta Dam in California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FARR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BERA of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4126. A bill to authorize the construction of the expansion of San Luis Reservoir in California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BERA of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4127. A bill to authorize the construction of the Upper San Joaquin River Storage in California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4128. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the

credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 4129. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax preferred savings accounts for dependent youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 4130. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage mixed-income housing development; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4131. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow States to regulate tow truck operations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. DELANEY, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 4132. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the size of employers eligible for the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. DELANEY, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 4133. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit period for which an employer is eligible for the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUGENT:

H.R. 4134. A bill to repeal the reduced annual cost-of-living adjustment of the retired pay of retired members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62 imposed by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4135. A bill to clarify the standard required for the importation of sporting arms into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 4136. A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MESSER):

H. Res. 494. A resolution affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H. Res. 495. A resolution encouraging people in the United States to recognize March 3, 2014, as Read Across America Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself and Mr. STIVERS):

H. Res. 496. A resolution recognizing the importance of savings to financial security; to the Committee on Financial Services.

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. JENKINS:

H.R. 4118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 4119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 4120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3 Clause 2

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 4122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 4128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 4129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 4130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 4131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NUGENT:

H.R. 4134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, granting Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes"

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 4136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 38: Mr. LATTA, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 107: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 259: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 395: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 401: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 494: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 721: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 755: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MCALLISTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 822: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 831: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 846: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 921: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 986: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 997: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1015: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 1020: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1212: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1249: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1250: Mr. COBLE, Mr. VELA, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1318: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1554: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1563: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1591: Mr. GALLEGRO and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 1726: Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 1736: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1738: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1740: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1795: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1806: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1814: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 2086: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2135: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2149: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2203: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. YODER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 2344: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2413: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2414: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2504: Mr. KIND, Mr. POLIS, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 2536: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2746: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 2907: Mr. NUNNELLEE.

H.R. 3083: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3116: Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 3135: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3180: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3306: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3333: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3335: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 3384: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3395: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3413: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3431: Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VALADAO, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 3443: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3463: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 3469: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 3482: Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 3508: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 3529: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3538: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3571: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 3600: Mr. O'ROURKE and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3670: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 3672: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3673: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 3698: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 3722: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3726: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3738: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 3740: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 3771: Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3776: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3826: Mr. FLORES, Ms. FOX, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr.

GIBBS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BYRNE, and Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 3857: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3878: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3930: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3931: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 3935: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3970: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3973: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3976: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3987: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 3991: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 4012: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4015: Mr. BERA of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HALL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. THORBERRY.

H.R. 4031: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 4045: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. COOK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4064: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 4066: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 4070: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 4092: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 4093: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 4094: Ms. CHU, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HANNA, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4106: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. GARETT.

H. Con. Res. 37: Mr. PETERSON.

H. Res. 418: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 485: Mr. DELANEY.

H. Res. 488: Mr. WOLF.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 7, February 26, 2014, by Mr. TIMOTHY BISHOP on the bill (H.R. 1010), was signed by the following Members: Timothy H. Bishop, Paul Tonko, Jerrold Nadler, James P. McGovern, Anna G. Eshoo, Allyson Y. Schwartz, Janice Hahn, Richard M. Nolan, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Susan A. Davis, Barbara Lee, Niki Tsongas, David Loebsack, Jared Polis, Donna F. Edwards, Gregory W. Meeks, Adam B. Schiff, John C. Carney, Jr., Elijah E. Cummings, John K. Delaney, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Michael E. Capuano, Timothy J. Walz, Akee L. Hastings, George Miller, Elizabeth H. Esty, Doris O. Matsui, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Ann M. Kuster, James P. Moran, Robert A. Brady, Brian Higgins, Terri A. Sewell, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Diana DeGette, Grace F. Napolitano, Bruce L. Braley, José E. Serrano, Xavier Becerra, Albio Sires, Michael H. Michaud, Julia Brownley, Matt Cartwright, Jim McDermott, Jim Cooper, John A. Yarmuth, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Derek Kilmer, Lois Capps, Peter Welch, Suzan K. Delbene, Peter A. DeFazio, Katherine M. Clark, Denny Heck, Rush Holt, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Bill Foster, Mark Pocan, Kyrsten Sinema, Nancy Pelosi, Steven A. Horsford, Nydia M. Velázquez, Grace Meng, Sean Patrick Maloney, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Dina Titus, Alan S. Lowenthal, Ron Barber, Suzanne Bonamici, Steny H. Hoyer, Eric Swalwell, Nita M. Lowey, Rubén Hinojosa, Carolyn B. Maloney, Kathy Castor, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Cheri Bustos, Robin L. Kelly, Chellie Pingree, Raul Ruiz, Scott H. Peters, Tammy

Duckworth, Joe Courtney, Bradley S. Schneider, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Joyce Beatty, Ben Ray Lujan, Tony Cardenas, Beto O'Rourke, Juan Vargas, Mark Takano, Joaquin Castro, Daniel T. Kildee, Al Green, Zoe Lofgren, Gwen Moore, Steve Cohen, John B. Larson, Michael F. Doyle, Linda T. Sánchez, Yvette D. Clarke, Maxine Waters, Donald M. Payne, Jr., John P. Sarbanes, Janice D. Schakowsky, John Conyers, Jr., Theodore E. Deutch, David E. Price, Chris Van Hollen, Joseph Crowley, James E. Clyburn, Gerald E. Connolly, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Eddie Bernice Johnson, John Garamendi, Ed Perlmutter, Nick J. Rahall II, Frank Pallone, Jr., Marcia L. Fudge, Emanuel Cleaver, David N. Cicilline, Danny K. Davis, Stephen F. Lynch, Michael M. Honda, Judy Chu, James A. Himes, Gene Green, William L. Enyart, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Sheila Jackson Lee, John Lewis, Jared Huffman, Charles B. Rangel, William R. Keating, Patrick Murphy, Ami Bera, John F. Tierney, Rick Larsen, Rosa L. DeLauro, Mike Quigley, Cedric L. Richmond, Gary C. Peters, Corrine Brown, Tulsi Gabbard, Frederica S. Wilson, G.K. Butterfield, James R. Langevin, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Daniel Lipinski, Sam Farr, Lloyd Doggett, Loretta Sanchez, Bennie G. Thompson, John D. Dingell, Henry Cuellar, Marcy Kaptur, Adam Smith, Tim Ryan, André Carson, Betty McCollum, Mike Thompson, Raúl M. Grijalva, Jerry McNerney, Kurt Schrader, Sander M. Levin, Henry A. Waxman, Marc A. Veasey, Jackie Speier, Richard E. Neal, Ann Kirkpatrick, Joe Garcia, Wm. Lacy Clay, Steve Israel, Brad Sherman, William L. Owens, Lois Frankel, Eliot L. Engel, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Daniel B. Maffei, Alan Grayson, Filemon Vela, Ron Kind, Keith Ellison, Chaka Fattah, Carol Shea-Porter, Pete P. Gallego, Karen Bass, David Scott, Jim Costa, Earl Blumenauer.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CARTHAGE BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE TEXAS 3A DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to have a number of outstanding football programs well established within the First District of Texas. To have two tremendous east Texas teams as the last ones standing, battling it out for a state championship title, makes me all the more proud as their Representative in Washington, D.C.

Today, we stand to recognize and congratulate the Carthage Bulldogs on a stellar high school football season in 2013 which culminated with their claiming the Texas State 3A—Division I Championship over the previously undefeated Kilgore Bulldogs, also an extraordinarily talented group of young men who were playing in their second state title match in school history.

As a result of extraordinary teamwork and athletic prowess, these two east Texas powerhouse teams faced off in what became known as the “Bulldog Bowl.” This canine clash came just one year after both teams were defeated in the state semifinals. More than 17,000 fans packed the stadium the week before Christmas to witness this battle to determine who would be “top dawg” in the state of Texas for 2013. The 34–23 victory secured the Carthage Bulldogs’ fourth state championship trophy since 2008, the team having captured three straight state titles from 2008 to 2010.

The Carthage Bulldogs’ 2013 championship success is a testament to superb coaching, as well as a tribute to the players and all who assisted them along the way. Such championships do not come without extensive year-round preparation of everyone involved, the coaches’ tireless groundwork, unrivaled discipline & selfless teamwork of players and staff, enthusiastic support and unwavering encouragement from family, friends and fans, all fueled by a dogged determination to reach the highest goal achievable in Texas football.

The lessons learned about teamwork and discipline will undoubtedly improve every participant’s life in immeasurable ways. These same lessons should help boost every player, coach, and supporter through the knowledge that potential obstacles that lie ahead in life can be overcome with championship capability.

Congratulations to Superintendent Dr. Glenn Hambrick, Principal Otis Amy, Assistant Principals Pat Browning and Wade Watson, along with the entire athletic staff including Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Scott Surratt, Assistant Coaches Chris Smith, Darren Preston, Andre Granger, Chris Cloninger, Clint Endsley, Matt Folmar, John Goodwin, Brandon Hargers, Ryan Marion,

Dennis McLaughlin, Benny Mitchell, Mike Morgan, Jay Malone, Charlie Tucker, Jim Milstead, and Stephen Luman; the Junior High Coaches Paul Bishop, Brian Caver, Jeff Griffin, Brian Stacy, and Damon Roberts; Athletic Trainer Dustin Swaim; and Student Assistants Mason Brittain, Kyla Burd, David Johnson, Nicholle Moore, Cynthia Puente, Hannah Taylor, Sydnee Taylor, and Sarai Vassar; and Athletic Secretary Mamie Vanover.

And of course, we pay tribute to the championship team consisting of Jakeldric Jackson, Dylan Possoit, Keldrean Strong, Blake Bogenschutz, Terian Goree, Jeremy Matlock, O’keeron Rutherford, Clark Neuman, Kirston Ingram, Troy Davis, Roberto Jimenez, Trevor Cooper, Jarod Blissett, Ross Barron, Tevin Pipkin, Christian Allison, Micah Templeton, Jordan Romero, Juston Clough, Tredarion Jackson, Bryan Bolton, Ty Jones, Tra’Kareon Leary, James Marshall, D’Vodney Brooks, Jace Zett, Johnathan Brown, Ronald Mayweather, Javontay Brown, Christopher Howard, De’Arreus Hearn, Rafael Hernandez, Gilbert Perez, Travis Phillips, Jimmy Gonzalez, Seth Ward, Kiiron Lewis, Jonthan Sells, Ravodney Hardy, Kedrick Henderson, Cade Clinton, Garrett Harvey, Branton Halcumb, Bryce Rickert, Mario McCain, Braden Russell, Micah Johnson, Hunter Hutto, Nolan Griffin, Akashdeep Singh, Devon Nitzschke, TC Bryant, Jonathon Rayson, Griffin Bankhead, Trevor Broadway, Brandon Carlson, Adrian Goodacre, Dillon Husar, Cristian Jimenez, Jarrod McLin, Cagan Baldree, Leonard Maxwell, Marquise Guinn, Ja’Marcus Roberson, and Tavorin Pellum.

May God continue to bless these young people, their families, friends, and all those individuals who refer to Carthage as home. It is my most esteemed honor to congratulate the 2013 State Champion Carthage Bulldogs and everyone involved with this endeavor, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING WESLEY CHESBRO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize California Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro, who will be retiring November 30, 2014 after 34 years of public service.

Assemblymember Chesbro has an illustrious record of serving the North Coast as an environmental champion, public servant and community leader. He has devoted his career to protecting the North Coast’s tremendous natural resources, advocating for underserved populations, and promoting the communities and businesses that call this region home.

Beginning his public service career in the Arcata City Council, Assemblymember

Chesbro served for years in the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the State Senate, and in the State Assembly. In addition to his decades in elected office, Assemblymember Chesbro left an impact on his community as the co-founder of the Arcata Community Recycling Center and later the Northcoast Environmental Center.

As a member of the California State Senate, Assemblymember Chesbro authored legislation to fund rural community clinics, protect California’s natural resources, provide housing for individuals with special needs, and ensure rural law enforcement agencies are fully funded. More recently, in the Assembly, Assemblymember Chesbro has successfully introduced legislation to promote recycling statewide, support local breweries, preserve forests, and protect marine mammals.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Wesley Chesbro upon his retirement for his work in representing the North Coast, protecting its resources, and championing its people. We express our deep appreciation for his service, and convey our best wishes for his long and happy retirement with his wife Cindy and his children Alan and Collin.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. The Renfrew Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been a leader in the education on eating disorders and the treatment of women since 1985. Its clinical excellence and supportive environment has empowered women to change their lives.

More than 8 million people in the United States suffer from eating disorders. Nearly half of all Americans personally know someone with an eating disorder. Unfortunately only one in 10 people with an eating disorder receive treatment for their disease.

The theme of this year’s National Eating Disorder Awareness Week is “I Had No Idea.” Since symptoms can be different for everyone, it’s not always easy for friends and families to tell when a loved one is suffering from bulimia or anorexia. For someone suffering from one of these diseases, it can take over their life.

The Renfrew Center is the nation’s first residential eating disorder facility. Renfrew has helped more than 65,000 women with eating disorders and other behavioral health issues in their 13 locations around the country. Renfrew offers help to women suffering from bulimia, anorexia, binge eating disorder, and related health problems. Renfrew empowers women with the tools they need to succeed in their recovery and in their lives.

The stigma that comes with suffering eating disorders can often lead to other illnesses

• 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.

both physical and mental, and sufferers need and deserve the strong support of their family, friends, colleagues and health professionals. This is where Renfrew excels, and I am grateful for the staff and supporters of The Renfrew Center for their dedication to this important effort.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Renfrew Center and all health professionals across the country for their dedication to treating those suffering from eating disorders. In recognition of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, it remains important today and every day to educate those in our lives about eating disorders and provide them support and hope for a better path.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN
APPALACHIAN PROJECT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of a program dedicated to improving lives in my region of Appalachia, the Christian Appalachian Project, in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Whether employees or volunteers, the exceptional members of this organization work hard to fight the problems which have plagued eastern Kentucky and Appalachia, including natural disasters, domestic violence, and barriers to economic development.

The Christian Appalachian Project began in 1964 with Reverend Ralph W. Beiting, who provided clothing, food, and other goods to the people of eastern Kentucky with the help of members of his church and community in northern Kentucky. Over the last fifty years, the organization has grown tremendously to include a vast array of programs for children and families, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. These programs offer hope and help.

Each of these programs is designed to help enrich the lives of eastern Kentuckians and better the community as a whole through an approach that emphasizes providing a hand up and not just a hand out. Each year, more than 1,000 people volunteer from across the nation to help make this project one of the most influential efforts in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an incredible program which helps so many in my region get back on their feet. The program's fifty years of service is a testament to how much this program has done for Kentucky and the whole Appalachian region, and I wish them a bright and exciting future.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF MRS. ALICE
GEISHECKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Alice Geishecker to the United States House of Representatives and this great Na-

tion upon the occasion of her retirement. Alice is a true American patriot with over 38 combined years of supporting Military members and families.

Since September 2001, Mrs. Geishecker served as a Congressional Liaison Representative with the United States Air Force House Liaison Office. In this capacity, she was responsible for maintaining a continuous Air Force presence in the United States House of Representatives. Her primary role was to facilitate personal contacts between Air Force leaders, Members of Congress, key personnel and professional House staff. She monitored the ever-changing political environment on Capitol Hill to advise the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Alice was the primary focal point for administrative functions within the office to include all logistical support for events, Congressional member travel departures and arrivals, and movements of Senior Air Force Leadership within the Capitol complex. This endeared her to many Members of Congress and their offices.

Prior to joining the Air Force Liaison Office in the House of Representatives, Alice worked as a contract employee in 1978 with University of Maryland at Camp Pieri, Wiesbaden, Germany and took her oath to federal service on July 5, 1989 working Family Support Services at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Alice also worked with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) liaison officers at the Army Command and General Staff College, Directorate of Combat Development, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and various divisions within the acquisition community and with the Director of Manpower in the Pentagon.

Alice had a varied and full civil servant career, but also served as a dedicated Army spouse to her husband Alan, a retired Lieutenant Colonel; loving mother to her three children, Cassie, Angela, and Jackie; and grandmother of eight.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor to recognize the career and service of Mrs. Alice Geishecker. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Alice and wish her and her family all the best.

PREVENTING CARBON MONOXIDE
TRAGEDIES

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of a preventable tragedy that occurred in my congressional district this past weekend. On Saturday, at a local shopping mall, carbon monoxide leaked from a faulty basement pipe and tragically killed Steve Nelson, who managed the Legal Sea Foods there. 27 people were also sickened in moments by this colorless, odorless gas.

Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning; more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized. Just one preventable death is too many.

This gas is so toxic because it is both odorless and colorless. In a house, for example, everyday items such as kerosene and gas space heaters, gas water heaters, fireplaces,

and gas stoves are sources of carbon monoxide. A leak or improper use of these appliances can be fatal.

However, carbon monoxide detectors are an incredible weapon in our fight against carbon monoxide poisoning. These detectors, which cost as low as \$15, are designed to alert people before potentially life-threatening levels of CO are reached.

In fact, reports of carbon monoxide incidents that aren't related to fire almost doubled from 2003 to 2010. This is actually good news because it means these detectors are doing their job to alert people before it's too late.

I usually talk about carbon monoxide poisoning during natural disasters, as I did during Superstorm Sandy when many of my constituents lost power for weeks and resorted to gas generators in order to stay in their homes.

But as we learned from this past weekend, we must always be aware and we also must make sure that not only homes, but also businesses and other public areas are adequately protected.

HONORING HY RAMM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Hy Ramm who recently passed away. Hy was a longtime friend, an accomplished business man and an asset to our community.

Hy was born in Liverpool, England and as a child he witnessed first-hand, the Nazi bombings during WWII. He was forced to grow up quickly, and the horrible things he saw during the war gave him a level of maturity and determination that I have rarely seen in others. After immigrating to Los Angeles with his family following the war, with only a fourth grade education, Hy quickly established himself as a force to be reckoned with. He worked hard to support his family and quickly rose to the level of Vice President of Dosimeter. Hy was determined to achieve success for himself and his family but always made time to give back to others. Even after his retirement, Hy worked with the Silicon Valley Coalition of Retired Executives (SCORE) and dedicated countless hours to mentoring young entrepreneurs.

Hy had a great passion for politics and public affairs and was actively involved in numerous campaigns over the years. I had the great honor of meeting Hy in the 1960s during his term as President of the Beverly Hills Democrats and he was truly an inspiration.

Hy is survived by his wife and two children, daughter-in-law Jenifer, son-in-law Warren, and grandchildren Meredith, Annabella, Kira, Griffin and Amelia. He will be missed by all who knew him.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life and tremendous contributions of Hy Ramm. Our community owes Hy a debt of gratitude for his tremendous accomplishments and philanthropic efforts and he will not be forgotten.

HONORING DR. ETHEL HALL DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History month and my commitment to honoring influential African Americans that have impacted the state of Alabama and this nation. Today, I have the pleasure of sharing the inspiring story of Dr. Ethel Harris Hall. Dr. Hall was the first African American to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education and she was also the first African American Vice President of the Board of Education. In Alabama, we remember this exemplary educator for her role in breaking barriers in education and for her lifelong commitment to excellence.

Dr. Hall was born on February 23, 1928 in Morgan County Alabama to Harry and Fannie Mae Harris. The Harris' sent their daughter to Birmingham to ensure that she received a quality education. She attended Ullman High School, A.H. Parker High School, and Council Training School. She was valedictorian of her class and went on to attend Alabama A&M University where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1948. She also obtained masters degrees from the University of Chicago and Atlanta University. She continued her studies at the University of Alabama where she obtained a doctorate in social work in 1979.

Throughout her tenure, this stellar educator taught in various schools systems throughout the state of Alabama including Hale County Schools, Birmingham City Schools, and Jefferson County Schools. Dr. Hall also taught at the collegiate level and was the first African American faculty member at the University of Montevallo. She later taught in the school of social work at The University of Alabama where she retired in 1999.

On January 19, 1987 Dr. Hall made history when she became the first black elected to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education. During her 24 year tenure, she served six terms and became vice chair in 1994. Dr. Hall served on the State Board of Education during many tumultuous battles over issues such as funding levels for schools, teacher testing, accountability standards for schools and academic standards for students. In making these tough decisions, she always remained a woman of principle-putting Alabama's children first.

In 2010, shortly before her death, Dr. Hall published her autobiography entitled "My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American to preside over the Alabama Board of Education." Dr. Hall stated that she felt it was important to share her story to inspire others to appreciate the opportunities they had been afforded. "I wrote the book because as I worked on the state board I found so many young people who took education for granted," Hall said. "They just assumed that everybody had the opportunity to go to school where they wanted to . . ." In telling her story, she hoped to not only share her experiences as a trailblazer, but to tell others about how she saw Alabama's education system evolve through the years.

While we honor Dr. Hall for breaking barriers, we must also salute this extraordinary

woman for her commitment to the students that she served. She led with grace and impeccable character that was defined by her passion for challenging students to be their very best. As a role model, she inspired her fellow educators to be servant leaders to their students and to their community. This beloved figure is also remembered for belief that all children deserved a quality education. Through her work she truly taught us to see education as the great equalizer.

During Black History month, simply saying thank you to Dr. Hall seems woefully inadequate but on behalf of a grateful nation we salute this pioneer and acknowledge her role not only in black history but American history. Her story is a perfect illustration of passionate leadership and selfless service to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Ethel Harris Hall, a phenomenal woman and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS M. HUNTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Appalachia's most dedicated allies, Thomas M. Hunter. Tom will retire after 20 years of esteemed service as Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Over the years, Tom has made a tremendous impact on eastern Kentucky's communities and local economies. The ARC has consistently worked to leverage their funding in order to spur private-sector investment in commercial and industrial development, as well as provide for improved water, sewer, gas, fiber, and road infrastructure projects where they had previously been sorely needed. Many of these investments have occurred in my District, where all 28 of the counties I represent are recognized as a part of the ARC. Specifically, Tom has had oversight of the 3,080-mile Appalachian Development Highway System; noted to be the cornerstone of the ARC's transportation efforts. The ADHS is a system of modern highways that connect with the interstate highway system. The ADHS recently achieved 85 percent completion, and has already proved to be a formidable economic stimulator for a region where roadways have traditionally been difficult to construct and often fall into disrepair. In my district, these vital corridors allow Kentuckians from even the most remote areas a chance to reach interstates with ease; thus opening up entire communities to travel and trade in a way that would have been impossible just a few decades ago.

All told, Tom Hunter has his fingerprints on hundreds of improvement projects in eastern Kentucky alone. Over the last 20 years, he has affected the lives of countless Kentuckians by overseeing the installation and repair of water lines, investments in small regional businesses via grant initiatives, and educational programs such as the Appalachian Higher Education Network—a group developed to work with high schools to increase the number of college-ready students in Appalachia. Tom has aided in tourism development with projects such as the Kentucky Artisan

Heritage Trails, and actively demonstrated his interest in improving the health of Appalachians with the creation of the Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Council. Tom has done so much for my district, and for Kentucky, that it becomes difficult to fathom how he has likely been an equally significant champion for the other 12 states included in the Appalachian Regional Commission's territory. The ARC has been an extraordinary federal agency due to the constant commitment they have shown in responding to the needs of people throughout Appalachia. There is no doubt that Tom's strategic leadership was a fundamental driver behind the ARC's steady success.

As he moves into retirement, Tom leaves behind a legacy of forthright demeanor, an attentive ear, and humility in service. His wisdom, care and passion for the region will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true hero of the Appalachian region, Thomas M. Hunter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING AUGUST "GUS" SCHAEFER ON A DISTINGUISHED 41-YEAR CAREER WITH UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor August "Gus" Schaefer for an extraordinary career—41 years of innovation and leadership in product and public safety at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in the suburban Chicago district I represent. Under his watch, more than 25 billion products worldwide have earned the UL stamp of approval.

As UL's Public Safety Officer, Mr. Schaefer has pioneered and overseen countless major safety initiatives. His work and leadership have helped firefighters do their jobs better and safer. His commitment has guaranteed the safety of imports from around the world. And his dedication has helped teach fire, water, health, environmental, online and consumer safety to untold thousands of children each year.

Mr. Schaefer began his career with UL in 1973. Over the next 41 years, he built a reputation for excellent work and leadership, as well as for building partnerships and forging friendships. Mr. Schaefer successfully built teams and cultivated a team atmosphere.

His record, his experience and his work ethic earned him roles as the Director of Asian Operations and then U.S. and Canadian Operations before finally taking his position as Senior Vice President and Public Safety Officer.

Throughout his storied career, Mr. Schaefer maintained his commitment to excellence and team building. His accomplishments demonstrate the grand vision and discipline necessary to take ideas to action.

Mr. Schaefer's career has indeed been long and distinguished. I have no doubt his presence, guidance, friendship, leadership and vision will be sorely missed at UL, but his legacy and accomplishments will long be remembered and have set the foundation for years more success and safety.

RECOGNIZING JANA PAVLUS AS THE 2015 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. An outstanding educator, Ms. Pavlus has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am proud to recognize her success and myriad of achievements.

Ms. Jana Pavlus graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Mobile in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Religion and Psychology. She began her teaching career in 2008 in Northwest Florida's Escambia County School District. After serving as a substitute teacher, as well as a Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) math tutor, Ms. Pavlus joined the faculty at Woodham Middle School, located in Pensacola, Florida, in 2010, where she currently serves as a seventh grade science teacher.

Ms. Pavlus not only believes that community involvement is critical in fostering a love and value of education in each student, but she understands and values the critical role she plays in the journey and professional development of her students. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Pavlus has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring her students and pushing them to their highest potential. In addition to helping students grasp difficult scientific theories, Ms. Pavlus also recognizes the importance of strong communications skills in improving critical thinking and is constantly challenging her students to understand why writing, analysis, and mathematics are important not only in other areas of study, but particularly in the study of science.

The dedication and commendable work Ms. Pavlus demonstrates as an educator has not gone unnoticed. She was awarded the Woodham Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2013–2014 and was one of a few teachers invited to attend a Capturing Kids' Hearts Workshop, which has influenced her teaching style and strengthened her connection with her students.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators who constantly strive to empower as well as teach their students, and it is a privilege to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Pavlus and thanking her for her commitment to serving the students and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her all the best for continued success.

COMMEMORATION OF SUMGAI, KIROVABAD AND BAKU MASSACRES

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 26th Anniversary of the horrific

Sumgait Pogroms. On February 27, 1988 organized mobs of Azerbaijanis aimed at killing and driving Armenian Christians living in Sumgait from their homes. Armed with sticks, axes and iron rods, they attacked Armenian men, women and children by breaking into their homes and brutally beating and killing them just because of their ethnicity. Despite Sumgait's 30 minute proximity to Baku, police allowed the pogroms to go on for 3 days, during which Armenians were burned alive and thrown from windows.

These acts were merely a continuation of the Azerbaijani authorities' unswerving policy of racism towards Armenians and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, with unpunished killings and deportations.

The Sumgait massacre is a black mark on history and sadly, this event sparked further violence as Armenians would be targeted less than 9 months later in Kirovabad and again in Baku in 1990.

The Azerbaijani Government has shamefully continued to undermine prospects for a lasting peace in the Southern Caucasus, recently in 2012, pardoning an Azerbaijani military officer Ramil Safarov who brutally murdered Armenian military officer Gurgen Margaryan during a NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace exercise in 2004. Safarov confessed and was convicted in Budapest for brutally axing Margaryan while he was sleeping. Safarov never showed remorse for the murder and stated that he wished he had killed more Armenians. Immediately after his pardon Safarov received a promotion in the Azerbaijani military, an apartment, and years of back pay for his time spent in prison.

For more than 20 years, the people of Nagorno Karabakh have fought and died for their independence. From the earliest days of its formation, the Republic's freely elected governmental bodies have helped build an open democratic society through transparent elections and it is critical that the United States support their independence and autonomy.

As we reflect on these horrific outbreaks of ethnic violence, I join with Armenians in Rhode Island, and across the world in remembering these victims and renewing our commitment to justice, independence and finding lasting peace.

I am proud to say Rhode Island was the first state in our nation to pass a resolution to recognize the Independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and set an example for other legislatures to follow, like Massachusetts, Maine and Louisiana. The time has come for the United States Congress to do the same.

HONORING REV. ABRAHAM L. WOODS, JR. AND BISHOP CALVIN W. WOODS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today to continue my commitment to paying tribute to outstanding African-Americans who have made tremendous contributions to the political, economic and social fabric of Alabama and

this nation. Today, I am honored to recognize brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. for their incredible audacity and courage during the darkest days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. were both born in Birmingham, Alabama to Maggie Rosa Lee Wallace Woods, a homemaker, and Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods Sr., a plant worker and Baptist minister.

In the spring of 1963, Rev. Abraham Woods led Birmingham's first demonstration at a whites-only lunch counter in downtown Birmingham. In the days and weeks following the first sit-in, Rev. Abraham Woods was arrested along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders for confronting Bull Connor. Rev. Abraham Woods had become friends with Dr. King while they were students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and later joined him on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

Rev. Abraham Woods received a bachelor's degree in theology from Birmingham Baptist College, a bachelor's in sociology from Miles College in Birmingham and a master's in American history from the University of Alabama. He co-founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956 with Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and served as the director for the Miles College Voter Registration Project.

Thirty-four years after the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, Rev. Abraham Woods played a pivotal role in urging the federal government to re-investigate the bombing. The new investigation led to the conviction of two Klansmen. "Even the Klan, as bad as they are," he told the New York Times in a 1997 interview, "you didn't think they would go as far as to bomb a church on Sunday with little children in Sunday school."

While president of the Birmingham chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Rev. Abraham Woods led protests which were instrumental in integrating country clubs and golf courses in Alabama and across the nation. The P.G.A. had chosen a Birmingham country club as the site for its 1990 Championship. The protests that followed impelled major corporations to withdraw advertising from the tournament which led to the integration of the club.

Rev. Abraham Woods is also remembered as an exemplary educator. He was the first African American to teach American history at the University of Alabama. In 2002, Rev. Abraham Woods retired from Miles College after forty years on its faculty. Upon his retirement, Miles College conferred upon him the Doctorate of Humane Letters. He went on to retire as president of the Birmingham chapter of the SCLC in 2006. He served as pastor of St. Joseph's Baptist Church in Birmingham for thirty-seven years until his death on November 7, 2008 at the age of 80.

Rev. Abraham Woods had an incredible impact on the state of Alabama and this nation in his pursuit of justice. He taught all of us the importance of loving God and living for others.

In 2006, Bishop Calvin Woods succeeded his older brother as president of the Birmingham SCLC and became president of the New Era Baptist State Convention a year later.

Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr. was born on September 13, 1933 in Birmingham, Alabama. At the age of twelve, he entered Parker High School where he developed a talent for shoe repair and tailoring and a gift for public speaking.

Bishop Calvin Woods graduated from Parker High School in 1950 and went on to earn a B.S. degree in social science and B.D., B.R.E., M.B.S and D.D. degrees from the Universal Baptist Institute, the Universal Baptist Seminary and Birmingham-Easonian Baptist Bible College.

In 1960, Bishop Calvin Woods became pastor of East End Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. During the 1960's, he was a resolute advocate for the boycott of Birmingham's segregated city bus system. He was sentenced to prison for six months and fined for his leadership in the Birmingham Bus Boycotts. Despite this setback, Bishop Calvin Woods continued his steadfast commitment to the Movement. In 1963, he was arrested and beaten by Birmingham's police for participating in public protests. Again, his dedication to fighting segregation and intolerance in the Deep South did not waver. Bishop Calvin Woods was heavily involved in the 1965 protest of Birmingham's voter registration procedures. He served as the strategy chairman for the protest of the shootings of five black protesters at a Birmingham supermarket.

Today, Bishop Calvin Woods continues to be a guiding light for the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. He remains an outspoken advocate for justice speaking out most recently against the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case and the Supreme Court's decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. I am inspired by the words he spoke at a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony in 2012 for the 6 Birmingham youth killed on September 15, 1963. "In a sense we've crossed a stream," he said, "but still there are mighty oceans of adversity that lie ahead."

As a direct benefactor of their life's work and sacrifices, it is my honor to recognize the contributions of brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Their contributions have inspired generations. On behalf of a grateful state and nation, we acknowledge these trailblazers and their influence on the progress we have made. The City of Birmingham, the State of Alabama and this entire nation have benefited from their sacrifices and tenacious pursuit of justice. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods.

HONORING ANITA BLEDSOE-COVINGTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Black History honoree, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington.

Raised in Grenada County, MS, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington is known within the community for her entrepreneurship and an active

member of the community. Born 9th out of 11 children of the late Icy Bell and Willie Sykes, the family had made strides of their own. Her mother, Ms. Icy Bell, was the head cook of a prestigious and all white restaurant, Monte Cristo, of Grenada, MS from 1963 until the year she passed 1973. Ms. Juanita Sykes, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington's twin sister, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he made his way through the south in 1967. And for her courage and civil defiance, she was arrested and jailed for this act.

With her three children, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington moved to Yalobusha County in 1973. This move would be the first of many for Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington. In 1978, she became the first black female delegate for the Mississippi Democratic Convention in Jackson, MS, as a representative for Yalobusha County.

During 1982 Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington opened Nita's Beauty Salon making her a staple in serving her community as a business woman. The salon earned Mrs. Anita numerous accolades as a beautician and entrepreneur. By 1986, she was the first black chairman of the Title I program for the Coffeeville School District as an active parent. As the 90's rolled in, Mrs. Anita was elected the first female Trustee of Coffeeville School Board District from 1991 through 1998. She also was hired as the first black female city clerk for the town of Oakland, MS in 1991.

During this time, the beginning of her career as a teacher with the Institution of Community Service head start program. Although she had already started her career as an early childhood school teacher, Mrs Bledsoe-Covington graduated from Coahoma Community College with an associate in early childhood education in 2003.

By 2005, in the same field, she earned her B.S. from Mississippi Valley State University. Coming full circle, 2010, Can's Chapel CME Church honored Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington as an unsung hero for Succeeding against the Odds during their Black History program. In 2012, she has obtained the Dean and President Certificate from the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Now married at the age of 60 and with 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild later, when asked if it was her agenda to create Black History, her response was, "I've always accepted challenge and I guess maybe I did! I wanted to see if I could make a difference."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington for her quest in being a part of making history.

“GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY”

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the thousands of dentists and volunteers who participate in the "Give Kids A Smile Day." Each February, Illinois dentists donate more than \$1 million in much-needed dental care to children. Many families cannot afford to provide their children with regular dental care. This can not only result in potentially serious health problems but is also likely to serve as an impediment to

economic success. The unfortunate truth is that individuals with unhealthy looking teeth are less likely to be hired than those with better oral health. Furthermore, an inability to obtain dental care can adversely affect children before they even enter the job market—dental pain can affect both sleep patterns and school performance. Inadequate dental care is not a cosmetic concern; it has a real impact on a person's economic mobility and success.

I commend the American Dental Association for its tireless efforts to raise awareness and develop solutions so more people can receive dental care. Since the ADA's "Give Kids A Smile" program was founded twelve years ago in St. Louis, it has grown to become the world's largest oral health charitable program—encouraging parents, health professionals and policymakers to address the year-round need for oral health care for all children. Each year, thousands of the nation's dentists, dental team members and community volunteers provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families.

This February in Illinois, over 2,000 dental care professionals volunteered for "Give Kids A Smile Day," reaching upwards of 17,000 kids. Dentists in Illinois have demonstrated their commitment to giving back to the community. In June 2014, the Illinois State Dental Society and its Foundation will hold the third "Illinois Mission of Mercy" in Peoria, Illinois. The Mission of Mercy is a free, two-day dental clinic during which over 950 volunteers see 1,000 patients each day and provide over \$1 million in much-needed oral health care.

I would like to thank all the dental professionals who have volunteered their time this year to provide screenings, treatments and education to children throughout the United States. I urge my colleagues to support the ADA's efforts to improve the lives and expand opportunities for our nation's children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JOE INFAUSTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Infausto as he retires after 43 years of public service as a police reserve officer. Joe's commitment and dedication to serving his community deserves to be commended.

Joe began his career in law enforcement in 1970 with the Clovis Police Department Auxiliary Unit. In 1977, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno. That same year, Joe was transferred to the Fresno Police Department Reserve Unit where he served for 36 years.

As a reserve officer, Joe was a citizen volunteer who donated his time and energy to help make Fresno a better place. Throughout his law enforcement career, Joe received numerous commendations for his service and professionalism, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant in 1999.

Joe's dedication to the security of his community was not only exemplified through his service but also through the establishment of his small business, BESTEC Security in 1983.

BESTEC Security provided state of the art security systems and equipment to individuals and families throughout the Central Valley for 23 years. Joe sold the business in 2006 and continued to serve as a Fresno Police Department Reserve Officer.

Prior to leaving the Reserve Unit, Joe was assigned to the Mounted Unit, where he continued to carry out his duty to protect and serve the citizens of Fresno while on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joe Infausto as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Reserve Unit.

CONGRATULATING JON REEDY ON BEING THE NSSGA'S 2013 SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jon Reedy of Irving, Texas, on receiving the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's (NSSGA) 2013 James M. Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year award.

The award, established in 1987, gives national attention to an individual who contributes outstanding efforts to his or her company regarding healthy work practices. Mr. Reedy, Director of Environment, Safety, and Health for the South Region & Hanson Building Products, Lehigh Hanson, Inc., has been a strong advocate for a safe work environment and brought proactive changes to daily procedures, particularly in mining. His tireless efforts have led to many man-hours without workplace injuries among several facilities as well as reductions in compensation costs. He is a great asset to not only the company but the community as well. NSSGA President and CEO Michael Johnson stated that "Jon's diligent work to boost safety and health performance is a great example of the aggregate industry's commitment to worker wellness celebrated by the Christie Award."

Jon Reedy's receipt of this honor evidences his hard work and dedication to not only his company but his workers and community. Keeping a safe and healthy work environment is beneficial to all parties involved. It is an honor to represent such a distinguished and hardworking constituent in Congress and I look forward to seeing the results of that success in the form of safer workplaces in North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Jon Reedy on his award.

HONORING CATHERINE MILLER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Civil

Rights Activist, Mrs. Catherine Miller who is a resident of Friars Points, Mississippi.

Mrs. Miller was born in the historical Taborian Hospital in Mound Bayou, Mississippi and resided with her parents the late James Lee Nolan, Sr. and Juanita Grandberry Johnson and her sixteen siblings in Friars Point, Mississippi. At the age of five her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee and after three years the family relocated to Friars Point to run their farm.

Mrs. Miller was educated in the Memphis City School District, Friars Point Elementary School, and graduated from Coahoma Agricultural High School and Coahoma Junior College. She furthered her education at Alcorn State College and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from LeMoyné College in Memphis, Tennessee, and continued her studies at Walden University towards a Master Degree in Non-Profit Management.

In the early 1970's Mrs. Miller participated in boycotting stores in Friars Point where people were being treated unjustly and got involved with activities which highlighted change for equality. She became a member of the Young Democratic Organization, and worked and campaigned in several Coahoma County Board of Supervisors Elections where her interest in politics evolved.

Mrs. Miller lives by the motto, "action speaks louder than words". In 1982 she entered the political arena and ran unsuccessfully for the position of Town Clerk for the Town of Friars Point, but that did not deter her because she was determined to be the town clerk. In October, 1986 she was elected Friars Point Town Clerk. After being in this position for about two years, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance making the Town Clerk's position an appointed position instead of an elected position. During this time Mrs. Miller stated that she would never run for another elected office because her mother was totally against her being involved in politics. She was employed in the appointed position as town clerk for over 20 years.

In February, 2009 Mrs. Miller left the Town of Friars Point Town Clerk's position and was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the newly elected Coahoma County Sheriff Charles Jones. A lot of things had changed in her life, with the passing away of her mother, she decided that she would no longer sit back and just talk about how she was not pleased with the leadership or the conditions of the town where she lives.

After soul searching and much prayer about the situations Mrs. Miller decided to enter the political arena, once again, in March, 2009 to seek the position of Mayor and was unsuccessful. Over the next four years she continued to show an interest in becoming Mayor of the Town of Friars Point, to see, make changes and improvements in the town. In March 2013 she threw her bid in to run for the position of Mayor of the Town of Friars Point. On June 4, 2013 her dream became a reality. She was elected the first African-American woman to become Mayor of the Town of Friars Point in over 120 years in history of being incorporated as a town.

Mrs. Miller's former position as the Town Clerk of Friars Point afforded her a wealth of knowledge and experience to assist her in the position of Mayor. In serving as Mayor she welcomes the challenges with the help of her constituents and the Board of Aldermen to move the Town of Friars Point forward.

Mrs. Miller is married to Arthur Lee Miller, Jr and they have five children: Danielle, Domanique, Rosalind, Chantauna, Arthur, III; seven grandchildren: Cameron, Hollis, Arveon, Lauren, Itlay, Asia, London and one grandson, Carson. She is a member of the First Community Church in Dubbs, Mississippi under the leadership of Pastor Rodney Hibbler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Civil Rights Activist, Mrs. Catherine Miller Williams, for her dedication to change and equal rights.

HONORING THE TORNADO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF MENIFEE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims and the surviving families of Menifee County on this second anniversary of the devastating EF3 tornado that ravaged eastern Kentucky.

On March 3, 2012, Kentuckians were devastated by the worst storms in almost 25 years, affecting at least 27 counties. The storms were responsible for injuring over 300 people and taking the lives of 20 of our loved ones in the Commonwealth.

Today, I would like for us to especially remember three of those individuals from Menifee County: Beverly Bowman, Vershal Brown and Anita Smith. May their memories continue to live in our hearts forever.

I would also like to recognize the resilience of the residents of Menifee County as well as many of the surrounding counties that have, without question, suffered much.

The Bible promises us in Psalm 147:3 that "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." The people of Frenchburg and communities across the Commonwealth have renewed this hope and promise of healing. This catastrophic event has reminded us that when tragedy strikes, it strikes in the hearts of us all.

It is a testament to the character and compassion of Kentuckians that individuals from all across the Commonwealth were willing to step in and help so that the victims of these storms did not have to carry the burdens alone.

In the face of adversity, communities find a way to come together. Over the last two years, the citizens of Menifee have banded together, leaned on each other and come out of this tragedy stronger than ever.

OBAMACARE AND HISPANICS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the White House has declared this week National Latino Enrollment Week, just five weeks short of the delayed deadline for purchasing insurance.

Healthcare.gov was a mess at its rollout, but the Hispanic website was even less functional.

Once it finally opened for business, the text was riddled with basic grammar errors, as if

the designers were using Google translate to build the site.

Now, Spanish-speaking Americans have the pleasure of finding out just how costly coverage in the Obamacare exchanges is.

In Pennsylvania, premiums in the individual market will run about 39 percent more than what they were previously.

Since Hispanic Americans are on average younger than the general population, they will face an even greater premium hike.

There are plenty of ways to expand access to insurance without forcing people into an expensive, government-dictated marketplace.

Obamacare is hurting many Americans, but its poor treatment of Hispanic Americans is notable.

We can do better.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS AT THE MASSACHUSETTS "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Auburn High School for their selection as the state champions at the 2014 Massachusetts We the People Competition.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is an innovative program designed to educate elementary, middle, and high school students about the U.S. Constitution and the founding of our country. At the high school level, the lessons prepare students for district, state, and national academic competitions, where high school teams participate in simulated Congressional hearings.

On January 25, 2014, 8 schools from across our Commonwealth competed in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Massachusetts High School State Finals. After a rigorous competition, Auburn High School was named the state champions, and the team was awarded the opportunity to compete at the national finals in Washington, D.C. this April.

Last month, I was pleased to meet with the bright and enthusiastic students competing on the Auburn High School team: Matthew Amiot, Connor Aubuchont, Matthew Blais, Erin Breen, John Bylund, Andrew Carpenter, Ture Carlson, Elise Cavanaugh, Erin Collins, Christopher Cubbedge, Tyler Ducharme, Matthew Frappier, Sarah Gardner, Nicole Grabowski, Liam Gribbons, Claire Hutner, Nicholas John, Katherine Johnson, Raymond Leo, Jaimee Martin, Jacqueline Matthews, Lillian McPheron, Matthew Nelson, Richard Phan, Nicole Plona, Kyle Quitadamo, Matthew Rodwill, Alekxiss Rojee, Scott Ruane, Bakhtyar Shairani, Camille Thomas, Michael Travers, and Jaime Vera. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students for their incredible work in mastering a number of topics including the foundation of our political system and selected contemporary issues. I would also like to recognize teachers Vincent Benacchio and Spencer Kennard for their work in mentoring the Auburn High School team.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud of Auburn High School's We the People team, and wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the national finals. Please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Auburn High School team.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ROSA PARKS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, every February, we celebrate Black History Month by honoring the achievements and contributions of those African-Americans who have courageously challenged the status quo, pushed boundaries and moved our country forward in the name of justice and equality for all.

Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, embodied courage and strength when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger on December 1, 1955.

Her courage and perseverance continues to inspire me, my constituents in the third congressional district of Ohio, and our nation.

I was privileged to have met her and so proud to sponsor the legislation that made Ohio the first State to recognize December 1st as Rosa Parks Day.

This Black History Month, I am honored to reflect and celebrate the rich legacy of Rosa Parks and so many other African-Americans who have shaped our Nation's history.

HONORING EDDWIN ALEXANDER SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this is Black History Month and I rise to honor Mr. Eddwin Alexander Smith who was born on May 27, 1974 to Dr.'s Jimmy Lee and Jo Ann Smith. He has one sister, Ms. Geraldine Smith.

Mr. Eddwin Smith graduated from Port Gibson High in 1992. He matriculated through Alcorn State University receiving a B.S. degree in Elementary Education in 1996 and a Masters in Administration and Supervision in 1998.

All through Eddwin's family life, he has been heavily engaged in civil rights and politics in his community. He learned early on of the importance of people and community. As he grew and matured, this allowed him to witness his family for over two generations, come to understand why it takes a village to make change with effective leadership.

Eddwin has been in Education for 16 years in various capacities as: Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal. He has been employed in the: Claiborne County Public Schools, Memphis City Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, Noxubee Public Schools and Wilkerson County Public Schools. He has demonstrated a real passion for students which he believes, "A well equipped Male/Fe-

male will make any community a better place." When he visits the different communities, where he once was employed, he can now begin to see the fruits of his labor. Some of the students are beginning to graduate from college and start their careers.

After a number of years serving in education, there came a greater calling, in terms of him wanting to become more engaged in his community, therefore, he ran for Supervisor. Eddwin ran for this office in 2011, won the election and began working in this office in January, 2012. During his first year in office, he focused on the needs of the people. In his second year, he was elected President of the Board of Supervisors by his peers. His continued goals are to improve community and economic development through effective leadership and his success has been seen in the Community of Claiborne County.

Eddwin is a devoted father of one daughter, Embree Gwendolyn Smith, who is following in the leadership of her father. He is also a dedicated member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi. He states that, "He accepts that God wants him to be a change agent for the betterment of all its citizens in Claiborne County, Port Gibson, Mississippi."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Eddwin Alexander Smith, a sincere and dedicated man with a mission for change, during this Black History Month.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRANK PROTO

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the long and successful public service of Tompkins County Legislator Frank Proto. Having served since 1985, Frank will be leaving office after nearly three decades. Mr. Proto chaired numerous committees during his tenure and played a leading role in shaping our community.

Mr. Proto's impact on our region is truly difficult to quantify as he has influenced countless aspects of the community. As Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, he oversaw the growing emphasis that was placed on recycling and the area's diminished waste production. He fought for the distinct needs of our rural communities as Chairman of the Rural Affairs Committee and promoted public library reading rooms in small municipalities. Outside of his legislative service, he spends his time assisting others through organization such as BOCES, the Cayuga Medical Center, and the Brooktondale Fire Commissioners.

Despite leaving his legislative post, Frank will continue serving the community in a variety of roles: as board member of both the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District and with Slaterville Ambulance. His passion for public service and his dedication to the community are unmatched and it is with great pleasure that I honor Frank here today.

OBSERVING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNSPEAKABLE VIOLENCE IN SUMGAIT, AZERBAIJAN

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 26th observation of unspeakable violence in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, I proudly stand with the Armenian community of Massachusetts in remembrance and mourning of the loss of innocent lives.

Anti-Armenian aggression in Sumgait in the early months of 1988 gave way to violent death and destruction. Thousands of Armenians were forced to flee their homes as refugees.

Today, the families of those who lost their lives, or were displaced by this violence, still seek resolution and justice.

Over decades, many displaced Armenian families have sought refuge in America, and are now making vital contributions in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. Proudly, our diverse district is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the nation. Together, our community is a thriving example of strength and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity.

Like the persecution of too many other peoples before it, the lessons of Sumgait must not be forgotten.

As diverse families of the Commonwealth, and as Americans, we have a moral obligation to promote tolerance and justice, and we have a duty to recognize the atrocities that have kept us from our common goal.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT "HARRY" ROGERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers who passed away on January 16, 2014, at the age of 84. As the founder of Rogers Helicopters Inc., Harry saved countless lives in firefighting, salvage, and search and rescue operations. His kind heart, talent, and tireless service to the Central Valley will be greatly missed.

Harry was born on March 28, 1929, in Clovis, California. As a child, Harry dreamed of flying and was inspired by his father, Robert, as well as other local pilots.

After graduating from Clovis High School in 1947, Harry attempted to join the Air Force but was unable to do so because of an injury he suffered while playing football in high school. However, this setback did not stop Harry from following his dream to fly and serve others. After attending Reedley College, Harry worked as a pilot and mechanic for several helicopter companies before founding his own operation.

In 1962, Harry and his wife, Wanda, founded Rogers Helicopters Inc. in Clovis. The operation remained in Clovis for three decades before moving to Fresno Yosemite International airport. Over the years, Harry and his pilots flew tens of thousands of hours in operations throughout the state of California.

Harry was an authority on flying in the Sierras, which is characterized by treacherous summer winds, icing in the winter, and few places to make emergency landings.

Many people relied on Harry's expertise and services including sheriff's deputies, park rangers, and search and rescue crews. Harry and his choppers worked tirelessly to rescue and recover stranded hikers and climbers, investigate wildfires and mountain utility lines, and transport emergency supplies to the needy.

Harry exemplified selflessness and was always dedicated to helping others. In 1965, the U.S. Army awarded Harry with a citation for flying in dangerous weather to deliver supplies to flood victims in Northern California. In one incident, Harry's chopper crashed in a river canyon, and Harry was quick to rescue his passengers seconds before the aircraft exploded.

In 1969, Harry achieved the tremendous feat of being the first person to land on top of Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the continental United States.

In his spare time, Harry liked to share his passion for flying with others. In the 1960s and 70s, Harry often took Clovis High School cheerleaders for a ride before dropping them off on the football field. Throughout his career, Harry regularly flew news crews over the Central Valley so they could photograph the beautiful scenery and was especially partial toward the Kings River in Fresno.

Harry cherished his time with family and friends. He was a devoted husband to Wanda, a loving father to his sons, Rory and Robin, and he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Robby and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers, a Central Valley pioneer in rotary-wing aviation.

HONORING MOUNT ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable rural town sanctuary, Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church.

"If you desire to eat for a year, plant rice. If you desire to be remembered ten years later, plant a tree. If you desire to save future generations, educate a child. But, if your desire is to preserve mankind, plant rice, a tree, educate a child, and build a church."

It was with this philosophy, spurred by the divine inspiration of God, that the Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church was organized. The year was 1864. Worship services began under a brush harbor on a two acre plot of land given to the church by Mr. Bolton and was originally known as Bolton Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. Bob Sanders.

During this time, there were many ladies who were strong believers in God, so they joined the church to help manage its affairs. By now, the Sunday school was beginning to play an important role in the church and Mr.

John Williams was elected the first Sunday School Superintendent. The church was making progress and everyone turned to it as the last phase of life and hope.

In 1918, at the tender age of 54 years, Bolton Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, but with Mrs. Elizabeth Brown and other determined people, a portion of the building that the congregation now worships in was rebuilt and named after her. This changed the name from Bolton Baptist Church to Mt. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Since the year 1864, the church has been a symbol of strength.

In 1954, when the State Highway Department began construction on New Highway 80, Mt. Elizabeth was moved from its original site to about one-fourth mile south of Highway 80. In 1964, the State Highway Department began construction on Interstate 20. At the age of 100 years, the church was moved a second time from one mile north of the town of Bolton to one mile south of Bolton, where it stands today.

Down through the years, the church was blessed with leaders, men who walked and talked with God and have kept the church moving for the past 150 years. Some of those who delivered their sermons from the pulpit were Rev. Bob Sanders, Rev. J. C. Lambert, Rev. Richard Patton, Rev. Jack Anthony, Rev. Cassidy Buckley, Rev. John C. Hunter and Rev. Wilbert Owens. Some moved on while others passed on.

In 1984, God saw that the congregation was struggling to stay together without a shepherd to lead them. God answered their call and sent to them a humble and loving Christian man, Rev. Bernard McKinley, Sr. A number of deacons and mothers were instrumental in assisting the aforementioned leadership carry on the church business, ultimately helping the congregation to grow were Deacons: Deacons Dave McCray, Edmond Jefferson, Elicot Watts, John Williams, Busher Mitchell, Jim Gooden, Robert Miles, Sr., Isiac George, Marshall Richmond, J. W. Wilburn, Dave Wilkins, Van Green, Sr., Jack Bennett, David Keys, Frank Johnson, L. C. Barber, William Johnson, Thirley Lewis, Sr., Ronald Mack, J. C. Malone and Clyde Montgomery, Sr.; Mothers: Magaree Garner, Callie Green, Katie Jordan, Louise Keys, Lucille Keys, Ruth Bell Lewis, Bernice Miles, Mary Porter, Frankie Reese, Ocey Richmond, Lillian Rollins, Minerva Rollins, Lee Ann Ross, and Frances Wilson; Sunday School Superintendents: Rev. William Levi, L. J. Myles, Jesse Burns, Jr., Johnnie M. Thompson, Thirly Lewis, Jr., Kenneth R. Lewis, Deloice Lewis, Susie J. Carter, and Jimmie Lewis, Sr.; Sister Rosie Patterson served as Church Clerk/Sunday School teacher; and Brother James Malone served as musician for many decades. Under the leadership of Rev. John C. Hunter, an outdoor baptismal pool was built. In 1977 under the leadership of Rev. Wilbert Owens, indoor bathrooms, three classrooms, a pastor's study and kitchenette were added.

During the span of 30 years, the church has undergone many changes, both in physical and spiritual growth, including the purchase of an additional acre of land for a cemetery plot. In 2005, the church underwent a major renovation project, which included the addition of an indoor baptismal pool, fellowship hall (with kitchen, restrooms, and classrooms), a foyer with additional restrooms and storage spaces, and pavement of the previous dirt and gravel parking lot.

Presently, the leadership of the church encompasses Pastor Bernard McKinley, Sr.; Deacons: Steve Adams, Tywon Alexander, Sr., Jesse Burns, Jr., Michael Green, Albert Lewis, Sr., Kenneth Ray Lewis, Terrence Sanders, and Bernard McKinley, Jr.; Deaconesses/Mothers: Linda Adams, Earnestine Alexander, Ola Cotton, Flora Green, Fannie Lewis, and Alberta Williams; Trustees Susie Carter, Edward Cotten, Wayne Gaddis, Vera Gaddis, Bobby Kirksey, and Mollie Bell McCray; Church Secretary, Sister Carolyn G. Price; and Sunday School Superintendent, Sister Johnnie M. Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church for serving as a pillar of steadfast dedication, providing an ever growing spiritual place of worship within the Bolton community for 150 years.

CONGRATULATING SUGAR LAND PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on being named the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's "2014 Texas Gold Medal Award Winner" in the 50,000 to 100,000 population category. This award recognizes communities who excel in resource management, park planning, and coordinating community programs and events.

Over the past three years, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation has gone above and beyond to improve our community. It established the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation to facilitate park project donations, doubled programmable space for seniors, and acquired 281 acres for future parks. Sugar Land commissioned an "Art in Parks and Public Spaces" program for community enjoyment and updated the Hike and Bike Trail Plan to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Sugar Land Parks and Recreation also opened the City's first Indoor Recreation Center, featuring space for classes and events, as well as a gymnasium, kitchen, exercise rooms, and activity space. This award is a testament to the hard work of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation employees and their dedication to making Sugar Land a better place for all.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on earning this prestigious award. We are all very proud of your hard work.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RON WHITEHEAD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ron Whitehead the city manager of Addison, Texas, who is retiring today, February 28, after nearly 32 years of service for the Town of Addison and over a decade more in other Texas municipalities.

Mr. Whitehead was raised in Orange, Texas, where he learned about city management from his father who was a city councilman and mayor. He participated in student government and graduated Stark High School in 1967. After graduating from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, with a degree in Government in 1971, he started interning for the City of Beaumont and eventually became the assistant director of personnel. Mr. Whitehead began work as the administrative assistant to the city manager in Irving, Texas, in 1974 and in 1977 became the assistant city manager for administration. He earned his Masters in Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas in 1980 and became the general supervisory assistant city manager in Irving the following year.

In June of 1982, Mr. Whitehead became the city manager of Addison and he has served that role until today. Over the decades, Mr. Whitehead helped Addison transform from a small town with a handful of businesses to a bustling center with approximately 1,600 registered businesses. In 1982 there were 200 family households in Addison, and today the population numbers 15,000. Today Addison has 260 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$60 million. As city manager, Mr. Whitehead helped build up the modern city with multiple projects such as Wheeler Bridge, Addison Circle, Vitruvian Park, and the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel. The Dallas North Tollway came through Addison during his tenure as well. Future projects that the city will continue to develop include work on Addison Airport, a pedestrian connectivity effort, and underground utilities along Belt Line Road.

His long-standing passion for people, service, and making a difference have earned Mr. Whitehead many board positions and awards during his 32 years in Addison. In 2006 he received the Texas City Management Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009 he was named Metrocrest Citizen of the Year by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, which represents Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Addison, Texas. He earned the William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award in 2013 and was commended for his strong commitment to regionalism and collaboration with neighboring cities with regard to transportation, services, art, and planning. Mr. Whitehead has also been the recipient of a distinguished alumni award from the University of North Texas, the L.P. Cookingham Award for Career Development from the International City Management Association (ICMA), as well as recognition from the ICMA on his 35th anniversary of municipal service. Among his roles in numerous associations, he has been particularly active in the Greater Dallas Planning Council, the North Texas City Management Association, the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and the Metroplex Mayors Association.

Mr. Whitehead has been married to his wife Donna for 27 years and they have two daughters, Maxey and Lauren. Donna is an elementary school music teacher in Good Shepherd Episcopal School and also plans to retire soon. They are involved in church and civic activities, and intend to travel together in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Ron Whitehead on his 32 years of serv-

ice as city manager of Addison and wishing him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIOGA STATE BANK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Tioga State Bank. Reaching this milestone is a testament to the hard work and commitment displayed by the Fisher family, which has operated the bank for five generations since its inception in 1864.

Over the past 150 years, Tioga State Bank has been a beacon of excellence in our community. It has continuously displayed steadfast dedication to providing financial services, creating local jobs and contributing to a vibrant economy while faithfully serving the needs of its constituents. The bank has also embraced community service, demonstrated by a recent \$20,000 donation to local food pantries in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

A core principle contributing to the success of Tioga State Bank is the commitment to "fiscally conservative" banking practices. This standard has enabled Tioga State Bank to stand the test of time through changing cultural and economic conditions. The business's proven track record of local job creation and economic impact has enabled Tioga State Bank to open new branches and expand into neighboring regions.

I once again congratulate Tioga State Bank on achieving 150 years of banking, service and commitment to caring for the local community. The bank is a strong example of entrepreneurial spirit and a small business's ability to blossom into an established and respected institution. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of Tioga State Bank.

HONORING NEW GREEN GROVE CHURCH OF FAITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, New Green Grove Church of Faith of Greenwood, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi was founded in 1909. It was founded by a dedicated group of people who wanted a place to worship. Services were held each fourth Sunday. In 1965, Green Grove M.B. Church was destroyed by fire and was completely rebuilt 1½ years later.

Since the church's inception, it has served under nine pastors and several outstanding officers. Reverend Milton L. Young, the eighth pastor, served for a period of fifty-four years. Reverend Young was a wonderful pastor. Under his leadership many souls were brought to Christ.

In 1995, Pastor Young's health began to fail. He suffered a stroke causing paralysis to his left leg. Reverend Milton Glass presided briefly in his absence and in July of 1995, Pastor Glass was elected "shepherd over the flock" with 25 active members.

The Church's name was changed in 1995 to New Green Grove M.B. Church. Today, it is called New Green Grove Church of Faith. From October, 1995 to August, 1996, New Green Grove began holding its services at Jones Chapel #1 because of costly water problems in its building. Easter Sunday of 2001, New Green Grove Church of Faith celebrated the dedication of its current sanctuary. On February 10, 2008, the church held its Mortgage Burning Service to celebrate the completion of their mortgage.

Under Bishop Glass' leadership, many services have been added to spiritually feed the members of the church. Worship is every Sunday with the exception of the fifth Sunday. Sunday School, Bible study and Intercessory Prayer Service are included in their weekly worship schedule.

Over the years, the pastor and members of New Green Grove Church of Faith have added spiritual growth programs to help the church become more knowledgeable of the Gospel. Some of these programs are: New Membership Orientation, Men of Standard Men's Ministry, Saturday Early Morning Prayer Service and an active Missionary Society.

The Congregational Health Ministry is an ongoing ministry to help the members take care of themselves physically, while maturing spiritually. Also established is the church website which is www.newgreengrovechurchoffaith.org. In 2010 the Audio/Visual Ministry was instituted which included the CD/DVD tape ministry.

On May 19, 2002 the sister church, The Living Word Church, a division of Catch the Vision Ministries was established in Lake City, Florida under the leadership of Pastors Vernon and Mitzi Singleton with Bishop Milton Glass as the overseer.

With the need to transport their members to and from services the church purchased a church bus in 2002. The bus served its purpose, however; in 2009, it was sold and replaced with a second van and a 25 passenger bus. The transportation ministry is always ready to assist the members who don't have a ride to church.

With the increase of its membership over the years, New Green Grove had to physically expand. One area of expansion is the purchase of twenty acres of land in 2003 located across the street from the church. In 2009, part of that land was converted into a parking lot to assist with the overflow of parking. Future plans and the vision of Bishop Glass is to use the remainder of the land to build a Spiritual Life Center to further support the outreach ministry in the community.

Currently, they are adding 4,500 sq. ft. for additional classrooms and fellowship hall space. Today, they have over 700 members with an average attendance of 400 each Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Green Grove Church of Faith for its contribution to the black community and black churches.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,410,830,777,447.36. We've added \$6,783,953,728,534.28 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

STATE AND LOCAL PREDATORY ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, since the mid-1990's the authority to regulate the towing industry had been in limbo. Through a provision slipped into the Federal Aviation Administration Act of 1994 that defined the tow truck industry as an interstate carrier exempt from state and local regulation. One year later, passage of the Interstate Commerce Termination Act eliminated the federal regulatory body that oversaw the towing industry, leaving the industry without proper federal, state or local regulation.

With no federal regulator, confusing restrictions and conflicting court rulings on what states and localities are permitted to regulate, no level of government has been able to adequately regulate the towing industry. This lack of regulatory authority has led to more than two decades of major consumer abuses by some unscrupulous towing companies. These bad operators have continued to taint an otherwise much needed and respectable profession.

Complaints about exorbitant towing fees and abusive operators grew so bad that in 2005, Congress agreed, through an amendment to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy of Users (SAFETEA—LU), to allow some limited state regulation in the area of non-consensual towing. The amendment also directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to identify additional means to protect the rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed.

That study offers some recommendations that track with conclusions I made several years ago, that consumers and tow truck operators would be better served by removing the last vestiges of federal preemption. It notes that consumers needing redress for overcharges today or other unfair treatment would no longer be in the Catch-22 position of having their State case thrown out on preemption grounds only to find that they may have no real recourse at the Federal level either. Since business practices vary from place to place, it may also be more practical to have non-consensual towing regulated by the States rather than by the Federal Government.

States are the more logical place to regulate towing. They already have an established

body of law in place to do so. This bill would bring those laws back into effect by removing federal preemption and allow state and local governments the ability to establish common-sense, pro-consumer trespass towing protections for their residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ROBERT JAMISON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Jamison.

Robert Jamison was born in Quitman County in 1954. He was a student in the Quitman County School System. In 1968, he was among the first blacks to integrate schools in Quitman County, Mississippi.

Mr. Jamison also marched with Dr. Martin L. King. He helped with changing from the "Old Stacked Voter System to the Ward Voting System", in order for blacks to have equal representation when voting. He worked as a Social Service Director at Quitman County Development Organization. He also served on numerous boards such as: North MS Legal service, Housing Authority's, Deporres Health Center and Selective Service System.

Mr. Jamison is a Quitman County Veteran Service Officer and is the founder of a non-profit organization, North Delta Youth Development Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Jamison for his dedication in being a part of the history making in Quitman County, Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF POLAND

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, The United States House of Representatives recognizes the delegation of the National Cereal Producers Association of Poland; and

Whereas, The twenty-eight members in the delegation of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations to include the Polish Association of Cereals Producers, the Polish Agro-Business Club, the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Milk Producers Zamojskie Agriculture Association are actively involved as agricultural leaders in Poland; and

Whereas, The Polish delegation's mission is to study Texas agriculture and oil & gas industries working in tandem in a safe and healthy environment making Texas the 11th largest economy in the world; and

Whereas, The goals of the program are to provide insight and educational information into United States agriculture and oil & gas industries, identify potential investments, enhance export and import opportunities and

continue to build strong Texas/US and Poland/EU relationships; and

Whereas, The areas of study and business opportunities will include crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, canola and vegetables; livestock to include cattle, horses, poultry and dairy; policies to include the farm bill, taxation, environmental regulation and tort reform; and the new technologies and production practices with oil & gas especially, shale gas; and

Whereas, The agricultural leaders from the National Cereal Producers Association of Poland represent Polish landowners and all sectors of Polish agriculture and will visit Lubbock, Amarillo, San Antonio, Panna Maria, Austin, College Station/Bryan, Brenham, Anderson, Chappell Hill, East Bernard and Houston, Texas during a two week span; the delegation will learn firsthand the diversity of Texas to include rainfall, agriculture and oil & gas production practices, temperature, soils, size and distance, population densities, infrastructure, ethnic groups and the various economic industries; and

Whereas, The delegation of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations are devoting their time and finances to explore Texas Agriculture and Oil & Gas from production to transportation to processing to storage to marketing to selling commodities while studying the issues facing Texas and the United States of America while discovering fertile opportunities to enhance business and personal relationships between Poland and Texas; they deserve recognition for their initiative and motivation to explore new opportunities to enhance food and energy production for all; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives:

Congratulates the members of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations on their involvement and participation in the agriculture industries of Poland with interest in the Texas agriculture and oil & gas industries and extend best wishes and prosperity for the future.

IN HONOR OF KENTUCKY RIGHT
TO LIFE OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Right to Life of Central Kentucky. As a strongly pro-life father of two young girls, I consider protecting the unborn and the most vulnerable among us as one of my greatest responsibilities as a parent and legislator.

This organization's mission is to increase public awareness and restore legal protection to those members of our human family who are threatened by abortion or infanticide. The Right to Life Association of Central Kentucky works tirelessly to advocate for the dignity and worth of all human life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending my friends with the Right to Life Association of Central Kentucky for their leadership, and I would like to thank them for all that they do for our community.

HONORING MELVIN C. JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Mr. Melvin Johnson.

Mr. Melvin Charles Johnson was born and raised in a small town of Tunica, MS. He has been married to Debra L. (Toney) Johnson for 23 years. He was introduced to politics at the early age of 10. He marched in his first Civil Rights March in Tunica, MS in 1963 and became the vice president of the SCLC Youth Organization in Tunica.

Mr. Johnson was very talented in sports. One day at school after a football game, Mrs. Velma (Turner) Brown, which was one of his high school teachers, told him that if he would put the energy that he played in football in politics, that he could help change Tunica County. So, he took her advice because she counseled him and was a great mentor.

Later, he went on to organize and establish the first voter league in Tunica County. It was called "United Voters League of Tunica." He also organized a voter registration booth in downtown Tunica in front of one of the night clubs. He collected all the information from each individual, filled out their applications and sent them to the circuit clerk's office to legally sign the papers in person.

He was one of the first that was elected State Constable in the Northern District of Tunica County. Mrs. Nellie Johnson, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Johnson contacted a TV spokesperson to tell them and to show them the conditions people were living in. This area was called Sugar Ditch, at the time.

Mr. Johnson also walked with Jessie Jackson when he came to Tunica to address poor living conditions in Tunica County. After this was brought to the world's attention, several people came to him looking for advice and told him about many other concerns that needed addressing in the community.

Mr. Johnson saw in a local newspaper where they had printed an article that referred to him as the "County Community Organizer." In his lifetime, the only thing he had ever wanted to do was to help improve the living conditions in Tunica County, Mississippi. His mentors were Mrs. Lucille Hudson, Jessie Brandon Sr., and Mrs. Alice Brandon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Johnson for his dedication in being a respected community leader.

IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 38th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice

Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business. They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others. And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union. Earlier this week, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressmen JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group. So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces. It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers' were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa. They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200

bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities. In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said: “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston: Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.; Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.; Rev. Crawford W. Kimble; Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch; Rev. William A. Lawson; Rev. Johnnie Jeffery “J.J.” Robeson; Mr. El Franco Lee; Mr. John Brand; Ms. Ruby Moseley; Ms. Dorothy Hubbard; Ms. Doris Hubbard; Ms. Willie Bell Boone; Ms. Holly HogoBrooks; Mr. Deloyd Parker; Ms. Lenora “Doll” Carter.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today’s and tomorrow’s generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING TEAM OF PARTICIPANTS IN SOLAR DECATHLON 2015

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a team from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University selected to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015. The team will complete a series of projects and initiatives, culminating in the construction of an energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Selection for participa-

tion in this event is a remarkable honor, with positions awarded to only 20 collegiate teams from across the country and around the world.

Throughout the competition, students will develop energy-efficient designs, products, and technologies. The Solar Decathlon will provide students with practical training in engineering and architecture fields while allowing them to gain real-world experience. Students will gain valuable skills, enabling them to pursue careers in the expanding clean energy industry.

The availability of renewable energy is essential in today’s world. Energy-efficient designs and technologies reduce costs and energy consumption while protecting local communities and facilitating economic growth. As the need for energy continues to grow it is critical that we develop new methods for producing sustainable sources of renewable energy. Solar Decathlon 2015 will encourage a new generation of young engineers and entrepreneurs to face this challenge. I am confident that these students will develop innovative solutions and new technologies that will benefit families and businesses in my district and across the country.

I once again congratulate the team of students from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University on their participation in Solar Decathlon 2015. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the great things that these students will accomplish.

HONORING ARCHIE TUCKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Archie Tucker.

In 1974, while still in high school, Mr. Tucker was hired by former ARS Mid-South Director Ed King as a biological aide during a time when there were no minority administrators or scientists at the station. Since then, Mr. Tucker has followed a nearly four-decade career as one of the highest-ranking African-Americans in the ARS’s Mid-South Area.

After graduating from Leland High School, Mr. Tucker enrolled at Mississippi Valley State University while retaining his part-time job at the ARS’s Stoneville station. He majored in business administration to gain administrative knowledge to go along with the research expertise he was learning each week.

After graduating from the MVSU, Mr. Tucker was promoted to a full-time biological lab technician in 1980.

Seven years later, he again was promoted to area property manager and eight years later, he became the first African-American Area Administrative Officer in ARS history. Mr. Tucker noted that each promotion brought additional responsibilities.

In 1997, Mr. Tucker became the Mid-South’s Area’s first African-American Deputy Mid-South Area Director and in 2011, broke another barrier by assuming his current post as Mid-South Area Assistant Director.

Mr. Tucker is charged with managing a \$110 million annual budget and has overseen the renovation of the Jamie Whitten Center,

the service’s main facility in Stoneville, the principal headquarters of the Mid-South area, which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Louisiana. Here, Mr. Tucker oversees research stations employing more than 1,000 workers in all. Mr. Tucker credits others, particularly former Director King, for his advancement.

The Stoneville offices were recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, for their diversity. Mr. Tucker said the station now includes many African-American administrators and scientists.

Mr. Tucker has made assisting future scientists, a priority, collaborating on research projects with several traditionally black schools, including Alcorn State, Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities.

The Stoneville station also has been involved with local school districts, conducting tours for students and in 2012 launched the Future Scientists Program, a collaboration between the service and the Texas A&M University Extension Program, which has scientists visiting classrooms, judging science fairs and students touring the Stoneville facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Archie Tucker for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African-American community.

IN HONOR OF HINTON MILLS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hinton Mills in Fleming County, Kentucky, and to congratulate them on the 31st Anniversary of their Seed Days Customer Appreciation Event.

Hinton Mills, with four locations serving the Fleming county area, was founded by Frank L. Hinton in 1918. Frank L. Hinton was born in the Plummers Mill area of Fleming County in 1891 and orphaned at the age of six. He began his own business at the age of sixteen, and opened a small store six years later.

Soon after, he began operating a much larger store; this store thrived under the leadership of Frank L. until his retirement in 1956. The store continued with success under Frank O. Hinton, who added a feed mill to the Hinton Mills family. Fleming County Farm Supply was opened in 1977. Today the fourth generation of Hintons are serving area farmers at four locations; Fleming Co. Feed Supply, Frank Hinton and Son, Jabetown Mill and May’s Lick Mill.

Hinton Mills is well-known for their wide-range of products, quality feed, and customer service, and it also contributes to the region in many other ways. The Hinton family has always been involved in the community through service on various boards as well as active involvement with FFA chapters in the area.

Seed Days began as a way for Hinton Mills to honor its customers and is now in its 31st year. Food and fun abound at each of the four locations during Seed Days. While the Hinton family honors their community through Seed Days this week, I would like to honor their devotion and service to the Sixth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Hinton Mills on their success

in business as well as the 31st Annual Seed Days. I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to Hinton Mills and all of its employees for all that they have done and continue to do for our community our the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATIONS GAIL SANDE

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, this week, at its Public Media Summit in Washington, D.C., the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) honored Gail Sande, Member of the Board of Trustees, KNPB Public Broadcasting in Reno, with the 2014 National Advocacy Award for her exceptional efforts in support of public television.

Said Patrick Butler, president and CEO of APTS, "Gail is a tireless advocate for public broadcasting, helping to advance bipartisan support of public broadcasting in Congress. She has demonstrated tremendous effectiveness on both sides of the Hill and both sides of the aisle."

Gail is the immediate past Chairman of the Board and stepped down after serving in that position for three years. She is a Trustee of the National Association of Public Television Stations. Gail serves on the Nevada State Board for the Humanities and is a board member for the First Tee of Northern Nevada and the American Heart Association.

She has been a dynamic member of the Reno community for the past 37 years. Some of Gail's activities have included serving as vice president and development chairman for the Lear Theater, a member of the Reno Tahoe Young Professional Network advisory board, treasurer of Young Audiences, president of the Roy Gomm Parent Facility Association, treasurer of the Sons of Norway, president of Law Wives and director of community relations for the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks.

A graduate of the University of Nevada at Reno—go Wolf Pack—Gail was an operations officer at First National Bank of Nevada until 1977, when she retired from the business world to be a stay-at-home mom and community activist.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Gail, and thank you for all you do to make Northern Nevada a better place.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the voice of 184,995 workers in my state that will be positively affected by the minimum wage increase—nearly 20% of my state's total workforce.

Families and parents are struggling financially because we have failed to keep up with the rising costs of living.

The Economic Policy Institute found that "at the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a parent who works full time, year round, [still] does not earn enough to be above the federal poverty line."

For these Americans, working hard year round will not be a gateway to gradual success, because in their realities, it does not even mean that you will be above the federal poverty line.

For these parents, our very own constituents, the pursuit of happiness, the American dream, and ultimately being able to mobilize economically is but a faint light forever out of reach.

In 2009, we raised the minimum wage in order to keep up with the rising costs of living thereby admitting that an irresponsible minimum wage causes financial hardship for the families that we are elected to represent.

People, we have a track record for making the impossible possible for Americans, so, now, I speak on behalf of those families in need when I say that we have a responsibility as public servants to see to it that a parent who works full time, year round, can live above the poverty line.

It is our moral obligation to see to it that our families earning minimum wage can have the means to economic mobility. Thus, we as legislators should rise to this challenge in order to ensure that all Americans have not only the opportunity to pursue their happiness—but that they also have the means to achieving success.

Friday, February 28, 2014

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2014.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4118–4136; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 494–496 were introduced. **Page H2097**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2098–99**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2824, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–364);

H.R. 3826, to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–365);

H.R. 163, to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–366);

H.R. 931, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–367);

H.R. 2095, to prohibit an increase in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management until a centralized database of all lands identified as suitable for disposal by Resource Management Plans

for lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau is easily accessible to the public on a website of the Bureau, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–368);

H.R. 3492, to provide for the use of hand-propelled vessels in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–369);

H.R. 2259, to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws and to preserve existing uses, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–370); and

H.R. 2126, to facilitate better alignment, cooperation, and best practices between commercial real estate landlords and tenants regarding energy efficiency in buildings, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–371). **Page H2097**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hultgren to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2067**

Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act: The House passed H.R. 899, to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 176 noes, Roll No. 90. **Pages H2069–86**

Rejected the Garcia motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to

the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 89.

Pages H2083–85

Rejected:

Cummings amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–362) that sought to strike section 5 of the bill, which would eliminate the current exemption from the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act for certain independent agencies (by a recorded vote of 185 ayes to 224 noes, Roll No. 86);

Pages H2076–77, H2081–82

Connolly amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–362) that sought to ensure that other impacted entities, such as public interest organizations, are provided any opportunity for consultation afforded to the private sector under the Act (by a recorded vote of 194 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 87); and

Pages H2077–79, H2082

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–362) that sought to add Section 14 to the bill to clarify that the requirements of UMRA as amended by this Act do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of the regulatory action exceed its costs (by a recorded vote of 180 ayes to 232 noes, Roll No. 88).

Pages H2079–81, H2082–83

H. Res. 492, the rule that is providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, February 27th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, March 3rd at 12 noon for morning hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Page H2088

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2081–82, H2082, H2082–83, H2084–85, H2085–86. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE FTC AT 100: VIEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC EXPERTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled “The FTC at 100: Views from the Academic Experts”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EQUITY MARKET STRUCTURE: A REVIEW OF SEC REGULATION NMS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled “Equity Market Structure: A

Review of SEC Regulation NMS”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held a markup on H. Res. 488, supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence. The resolution was ordered reported, to the Full Committee, as amended.

CRIMINAL CODE REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Task Force on Over-Criminalization held a hearing entitled “Criminal Code Reform”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on discussion draft of legislation regarding Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. Testimony was heard from Samuel D. Rauch III, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Samuel Pooley, Director, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1786, the “National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013”. The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Concerns Regarding FDA’s Proposed Changes to Generic Drug Labeling”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2641, the “Responsible And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2013” and H.R. 2824, the “Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act”, 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, March 3

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Monday, March 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.). Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at approximately 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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